

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Media Toys with a Feinstein for Vice President Boomlet

by George Mendenhall

A Jewish person who is a woman from a city considered by many Americans to be where the "kooks" live was being talked about last week from Maine to California as a possible vice presidential candidate. Mayor Dianne Feinstein, already gaining stature within the influential National Conference of Mayors, has been named as a possible Democratic running mate in 1984.

Feinstein was somewhat startled when she attended a session of Democratic women from 30 states in the nation's capital last week. She was the center of attention and somewhat uncharacteristically taken aback. "Is this a real interest (nominating a woman) in the minds of the voters around the country or just a media phenomenon?" the mayor asked. The answer will come in the next few months.

Precinct analysis and polls indicated strongly that Feinstein received overwhelming Lesbian/Gay support in her recall election earlier in the year. Although there had been no ground swell of interest or support for

"domestic partners" legislation before the mayor's veto of Supervisor Harry Britt's effort, many were angered. The Gay voters later put that aside and supported the mayor. What was not fully realized at the time is that the mayor's veto gave her a more moderate image nationally. "Kook City" had been contained. The Britt bill is today dead.

Gay activists are hopeful that if the mayor moves to Washington she would be able to influence people and set a tone that would help move AIDS funding and Gay civil rights legislation. Early in her political career, Feinstein was the first member

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Hotel Tax Fund Grants Gays .00075% of Total for Arts

No Gays on Citizens Advisory Committee

by Allen White

Only \$26,500 of a whopping \$3,400,000 goes to the Gay community from the San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund. Several believe Gay groups should be receiving a larger part of the financial pie.

For 1984 the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee will receive \$13,500. The Lesbian/Gay Film Festival will receive \$2,500. Theatre Rhinoceros gets \$7,500 and \$3,000 is earmarked for Golden Gate Performing Arts. That's it for the 1983/84 allocation.

Of the 3.5 million dollars allocated, over one million goes to the San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Symphony. Another half-million dollars is shared by the San Francisco Ballet and the American Conservatory Theatre; \$285,000 goes to Neighborhood Arts Programs. The remainder is split up among cultural organizations, parades, special events, annual celebrations, and promotional organizations.

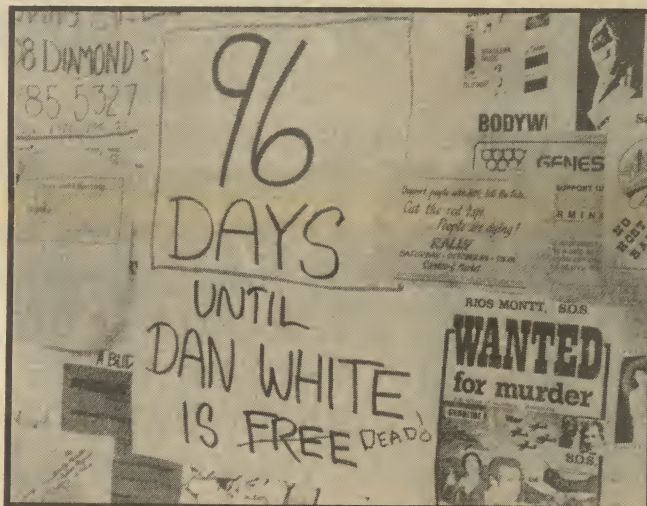
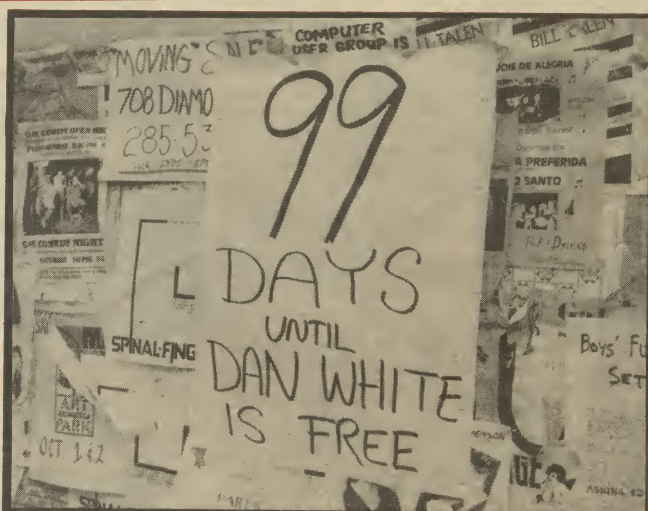
The fund was created in 1961. The revenues for the fund are generated by a tax on hotel and motel room receipts.

In 1977, then newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer Roger Boas streamlined and re-organized the hotel tax fund. Of all the money that is received, 12% is earmarked for the Publicity and Advertising

Fund. It is this fund which is split up for cultural organizations. Applications for awards from the Publicity and Advertising Fund are accepted once a year, in mid-February. They are reviewed by staff administrators, an eight-person advisory committee, and by Boas. Recommendations are made to the Chief Administrative Officer and he makes the final decision.

For the 1983/84 year, the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee will receive \$13,500. This is an increase from the previous grant of \$11,180. Kary Schulman, who administers the fund, noted the Gay Parade is now ranked third in the parade allocations behind the Chinese New Year Parade (\$35,000) and the Columbus Day Parade (\$22,000). She notes that the Gay Parade is the only parade whose allocation is being increased in 1983. This results from the stable organization of the Parade Committee and the number of people attracted into San Francisco by the event. The Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade is regarded as the largest

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Street Gays keep count in the Castro. The Dan White Calendar is a daily attraction on the B of A bulletin board. (Photo: Rink)

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Anti-Gay Harassment

High-Tech Firm is Sued for \$30 Million

Ex-employee Target of False AIDS Rumors

by Dion B. Sanders

SAN JOSE — Charging a year-long campaign of homophobic harassment by his co-workers with the tacit approval of his superiors, a former chemical technician has filed a \$30 million damage suit against his ex-employer, a Silicon Valley high-technology firm.

In a complaint filed last July in Santa Clara County Superior Court, Waheed "Larry" Ghilzai accused officials at SEEQ Technology Inc. of San Jose of taking no action to stop the false rumors from circulating around the plant that he had the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and that the officials moved other employees away from his work station as a result of the rumors.

(Continued on page 4)

Vice President Feinstein?

Lesbians', Gay Men's Reaction to News

by George Mendenhall

Bay Area Reporter contacted a variety of upfront Gay activists and personalities for their reactions to the possibility that the Mayor of San Francisco will become a vice presidential candidate:

PHYLLIS LYON, Lesbian activist/author: "I don't know if she has a chance, but it would be exciting to have a woman candidate. She is also very aware and knowledgeable about our community. While she did veto the



(Photo: Rink)

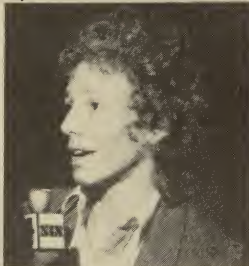
domestic partners legislation, that was partly because the insurance companies needed time to consider the ramifications. . . . She would receive national support from women and Jews. Dianne is already a national figure."

PAUL BONEBERG, President, Stonewall Democratic Club: "She gave a message to the nation when she vetoed the domestic partners legislation. She was telling the Gay community: 'You have gone too far.' She told the nation, 'I am the mayor who stood up to Gay people — who drew the line and said No More!' . . . She has distanced herself from the Lesbian/Gay community. However she is firmly on record in support of more federal AIDS funding, and we can use her as a lever to extract more money. We should get her commitment now that she will speak out for AIDS funding when she addresses the convention here in July."

★ ★ ★

DON JACKSON, St. Priapus Church & Rescue Mission: "We could have worse candidates. I would vote for her. . . . The convention being here will help her chances to be nominated. She is not ideal but she knows us and would be more favorable than many others."

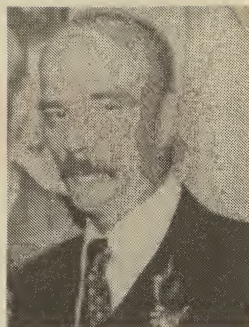
CAROLE MIGDEN, President, Harvey Milk Democratic Club: "I think it would be unlikely that she would be selected. As a Jewish person myself, I think that being Jewish would be a problem. She clearly has a Jewish name. She is also



(Photo: Rink)

too liberal. If it is a woman, it would have to be a more conservative woman. . . . She is not a Gay rights advocate, nor would she characterize herself as that. She would have to be more responsible to national attitudes — not San Francisco attitudes."

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GERRY PARKER, former President, Stonewall Democratic Club: "Feinstein does not represent the kind of progressive politics that I want to see leading us in Washington in the 1980's. She does not have the concern for the poor and underrepresented and has not grappled with the economic problems of this country that affect the working class and Third World people. I also do not believe that any person on the Democratic ticket should exemplify the politics of the rich. . . . I would rather see a presidential candidate like Alan Cranston or Ted Kennedy that will set a moral tone for the country on the issue of Gay liberation than a Vice President who merely presides over the U.S. Senate and by-and-large has no major voice in national policy."



doors will be opened, not just ajar, for our community. However, we have to raise money and armies for our cause and not rely on Dianne or anyone else to do our work for us."

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DEL MARTIN, Lesbian activist/author: "She has a close relationship with Mondale, which might help her chances. She has made a positive name for herself among the mayors of other cities and would be a dynamic campaigner. I am sure she would lure some Republican



(Photo: Rink)

women to vote for her. Dianne is also a political moderate — which is a national plus. . . . Dianne knows how to get things done. That does not mean we have to agree with her all the time. Besides, it would be great to go to Washington and visit the Vice President."

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JACK FERTIG, ("Sister Boom Boom") Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence: "It would be a wonderful way to get her out of town. Seriously, we can get a better mayor, but I question that we could find a better Vice President. She would be great in that position and I would love to see her make it. . . . My criticism of her locally has no bearing on how I feel about her as a national person. She is more knowledgeable about our lifestyle — even with some flaws in her understanding — and would be better than anyone we've had before in that position. Hopefully, she could influence legislators and set a tone that would bring Gay people into the White House."

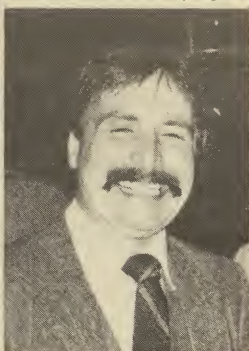
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JIM FOSTER, nationally recognized Gay Democratic activist: "Dianne would be a superb Vice President. Our community would greatly benefit from it. . . . The question is whether she is interested. . . . With Feinstein the opportunity has never been greater than to have a woman candidate. Being Jewish, she would bring balance to the ticket. Being from San Francisco is not necessarily a negative. We will be able to show the nation at the convention that this is not 'kook city'. . . . If the Democrats gain power again,

JIM GORDON, Curator, Harvey Milk Archives: "A great idea. It would get her out of the city and into a job that has been called the most useless position conceived by the mind of man. In reality, the election will be determined by Reagan's popularity and not who the Democrats are running. . . . As VP she wouldn't be doing anything, so is that a plus for us? Dianne would be toning down her Lesbian/Gay rights positions, as the rest of the country is not that liberal. She would help Mondale by strengthening the ticket by getting him more progressive and women's votes."

★ ★ ★

SAL ROSSELLI, Business Agent, Theatre Janitors Local 9: "It would be a big plus for the Gay movement. She is firmly on record as favoring Gay rights



(Photo: Rink)

and she would not shy away from that. However, that position could hurt her chances nationally. In a way, we live on an island called San Francisco."


★ ★ ★

CONNIE O'CONNOR, Lieutenant, Sheriff's Department: "A Jewish woman who supports our community — that would be good for the country. She would come across nationally as a 'common sense' person, not as the person depicted in that trashy CBS 'Gay Power' show. Dianne impresses people." ■




(Photo: Rink)

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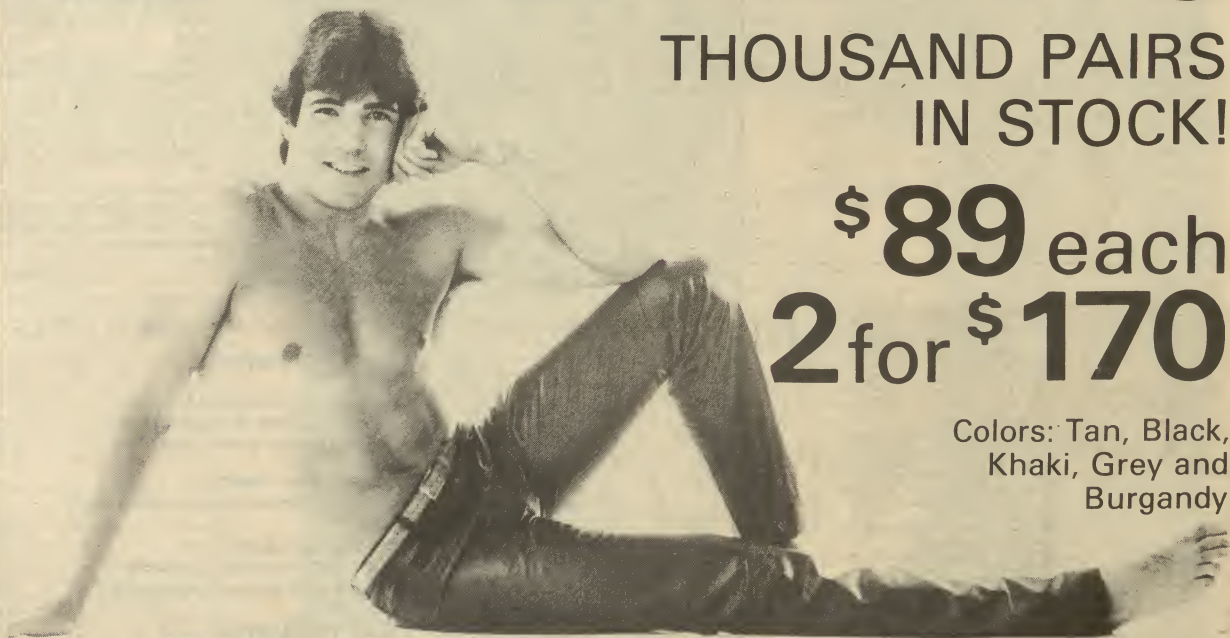
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UC Plans Massive Study

If you live in the Castro or Polk Street-Pacific Heights areas of San Francisco, someone may come knocking at your door sometime after the holidays and ask you if you want to participate in an AIDS study.

The University of California's School of Public Health is teaming up with Children's Hospital to do an epidemiological study of 1,000 healthy male homosexuals and 200 healthy male heterosexuals to try to find out what risk factors may be involved with the disease and to study its natural history.

Study volunteers will receive physical examinations twice a year for three years and samples of blood, semen, and urine will be taken. During those three years it is estimated that 30 to 60 of the study subjects will develop AIDS.

By comparing medical and sociological information — such as sexual behavior, medicinal and recreational drug use, psychological characteristics, and occupational and nutritional information of subjects who remain AIDS free with those who do not, the scientists doing the study hope to identify factors that may contribute to coming down with AIDS. That

is part of what epidemiologists do — they concentrate on what may lead to a disease rather than what specific agent causes it or its specific cure. It is also the first study to be done on healthy Gay males, rather than those who are already sick.

UC-Berkeley was awarded \$3 million to do the study by the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases as part of a \$15 million nation-wide project to be conducted along with UCLA, Northwestern University, the University of Pittsburgh and John Hopkins University. The study in San Francisco will be different from the others, however, in that it is a population-based study. Volunteers for the study will be recruited similarly to how a Harris or Gallup poll is conducted, while in the other cities the subjects will come from patients at local health clinics. The scientists conducting the study estimate that at least 4,000 households in San Francisco will have to be polled in order to get 1,000 subjects.

"It is an opportunity as Gay people to figure out what's going on," said David Lyman, an epidemiologist connected with the study.

High-Tech Firm is Sued for \$30 Mill

(Continued from page 1)

Ghilzai's attorney, Elizabeth Shively, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that her client had suffered "a long-term period of bad treatment" by his co-workers, "always getting hit with snide, homophobic remarks by his immediate superiors."

Ghilzai, a native of Afghanistan who was granted political asylum in the United States following the 1979 Soviet invasion of his homeland, resigned from SEEQ June 23 "after suffering considerable embarrassment and emotional anguish," according to the lawsuit.

Ghilzai told the *San Jose Mercury News* last Thursday through his attorney that his life "has become pointless and sad. There's no way to mend my reputation or my family's reputation in the Afghan community."

The Afghan community is Moslem, and under Islamic law, homosexuality is punishable by death to the offender and severe ostracism to the offender's relatives.

In this suit, Ghilzai charged that he was moved to an isolated section of the SEEQ plant that was unsafe with chemicals. As a result of his exposure to the chemicals, his hair began to fall out, prompting the AIDS rumors.

Many AIDS patients suffer significant hair loss, a symptom that has so far defied explanation by doctors.

"Before this happened, I had read a lot about the AIDS hys-



TV shot of "Larry" Ghilzai, Gay Afghani who is suing ex-employer for AIDS smear.

teria and how Gays were being treated. It was like a nightmare coming true," Ghilzai said.

Company officials refused to comment on the case. Dennis Lyons, vice president of personnel for SEEQ and a co-defendant in the suit, said that neither he nor other company officials could comment because "the matter is in litigation."

SEEQ officials have until Monday to respond to Ghilzai's suit in Superior Court.

The suit charges that two SEEQ employees — one of them a supervisor — said in front of witnesses June 17 that Ghilzai has AIDS. The supervisor, Lonny Wright, and Kevin Carnes,

had no evidence to back up their assertions and did nothing to stop the rumors.

The suit further charges that several days after Wright and Carnes started the AIDS rumor, Ghilzai found a flyer inside the plant that read, "Larry Ghilzai! Stop Spreading AIDS! Quit Now!"

Ghilzai immediately wrote a memorandum to Lyons complaining about the rumors and the effects the rumors were having on himself, his co-workers, and his work environment. Lyons, the suit charges, took no action on Ghilzai's memo.

Wright and Carnes are also co-defendants in the suit.

Shively told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the AIDS rumors intensified derogatory remarks about her client's Gayness by his co-workers, to the point that they made his life intolerable, and he resigned from the company.

Ghilzai, who lives in Fremont, has been unemployed since then.

Because San Jose has no Gay Rights ordinance on the books — a proposed ordinance was defeated by a two-to-one margin in a 1980 referendum — Shively will argue invasion of privacy, rather than anti-Gay discrimination.

The attorney also charged that Ghilzai was denied access to his personnel file after his resignation so that he could check to see whether the file contained references to his private life.

Shively said the denial of access to the file is in violation of the State Fair Employment Practices code.

D.B. Sanders



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Congratulations!

and thank you to the current 1983 members of "The Forty-Eight" of the Gay Rights National Lobby!

The following people have played an important role through their contributions their involvement and their support of Gay Rights National Lobby in its efforts for increased Federal funding for AIDS research and in the battle for lesbian and gay civil rights:

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- Attending an annual meeting in Washington, D.C., to help advise the Board of Directors in establishing goals and reviewing progress; to meet with congressional leaders and advocates of human rights
- Helping establish financial goals for subsequent years and
- Making monthly financial contributions.

Already "The Forty-Eight" has helped provide the impetus to launch the most aggressive pro-gay and pro-lesbian effort ever on Capitol Hill. The advice and contributions of this major donor group have been an important force behind GRNL, whose lobbying efforts in Congress on AIDS funding have helped in the establishment of the Interagency Public Health Emergency Fund and the appropriation of the \$26 million in FY 1983 for research; and whose national lesbian and gay civil rights legislation has already gained 71 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 7 co-sponsors in the Senate, including Senators Tsongas (D-MA), Kennedy (D-MA), Packwood (R-OR), Moynihan (D-NY), Cranston (D-CA), Inouye (D-HI), and Matsunaga (D-HI).

Anyone interested in becoming a member of this important and prestigious group should contact one of the following people: in the Western U.S., Terry Bean at (503) 484-9061; in the Midwest, Ron Ehemann at (312) 769-6544; and in the South and East, Jerry Weller at (202) 546-1801. Or write: GRNL, P.O. Box 1892, Washington, D.C. 20013.

GGBA's Cortright Resigns

Kim Cortright, who has served as Executive Secretary for the Golden Gate Business Association for more than five years, has announced his resignation effective October 31. He plans to pursue new career directions and is currently considering several positions in the Gay and non-gay business community.

When hired in 1979, Cortright became GGBA's first staff person and was instrumental in helping the Gay and Lesbian business association grow from 90 members to its current all-time high of 760 members, making it the largest gay business group in the nation. Roger Gross, president of GGBA said: "I am sad to see Kim go; he has always been an important part of this organization. During his tenure, GGBA developed a standard of excellence and a level of professionalism by which other groups are measured and which other groups seek to match. This has been made possible in large part because of Kim's dedication, loyalty and very hard work. He will be missed, but we respect his need for change and growth."

On making his decision to resign, Cortright stated, "I feel very good about how GGBA has emerged into one of San Francisco's most respected and stable Gay organizations. Working with the various presidents, board of directors and the membership for the past five years, we have accomplished most of the goals I had personally set for the Association and now I want to move on to new challenges."

Since May of this year, the GGBA board and staff have been studying the organization's structure with a goal of making the Association efficient and effective to meet growing member needs in the 1980's.

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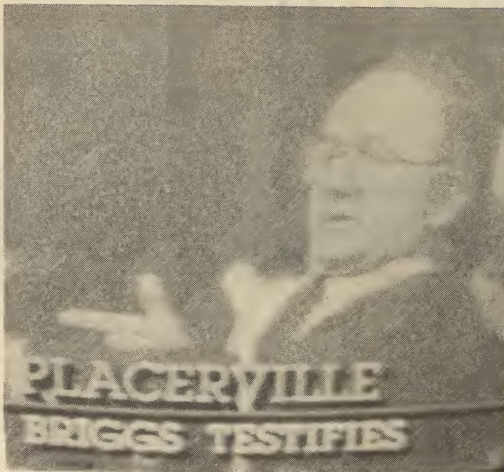
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Ex-Sen. Briggs Acquitted of Battery



A TV shot of ex-State Senator — the infamous John Briggs. Today Briggs resides in El Dorado County.

by Dianne Gregory

Placerville - Former California State Senator John Briggs has been acquitted of committing battery on a process server, and the jury deadlocked nine to three in favor of acquittal on a second charge of brandishing a firearm.

Both charges were the result of a June 6 incident in which Briggs, best known for the initiative appearing on the ballot in 1978 bearing his name that would have banned homosexuals from teaching in California public schools, allegedly fired a rifle in the direction of Charles Putney and struck him in the head when he tried to serve Briggs with a summons and complaint.

Briggs denied striking Putney altogether and said he fired the gun into the cherry orchard and not towards Putney. Briggs also said he feared for his life when he saw Putney walking across his lawn while he was hunting rabbits with his "varmint gun" because when he was in the State Senate there had allegedly been a plot by the Weathermen group to blow up his office.

Putney testified during the five-day trial that Briggs pointed the rifle at his chest and then fired the weapon about three feet to one side. He also said Briggs hit him once on the lip and once on the left side of his head.

Other testimony during the trial resulted in misdemeanor charges being filed against Putney stemming from an August 3 incident at the Kelsey home of Cathy Bastien. Bastien had testified for the defense that Putney had called her and her daughter foul and vulgar names when he tried to serve a summons on her husband. Private investigator William Stokes testified for the prosecution that he had been kicked and pushed when he tried to serve a summons on Briggs last December.

In closing arguments, Assistant District Attorney Walt Miller called Briggs' claim that he feared for his life "a scam." In rebuttal, defense attorney John Virga pointed to such victims of political assassination as John and Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and George Moscone.

Jury foreman Larry Wilson said the question of whether Briggs was acting in self-defense was the issue that divided the jury during seven hours of deliberation. Three jurors felt Briggs did not feel threatened, and the

other nine, including Wilson, voted for acquittal on the charge of brandishing a firearm because, "we couldn't get inside his mind to say how he felt and there was not enough evidence to prove otherwise," said Wilson. Wilson said the jury voted to acquit Briggs on the battery charge because there were no witnesses to the incident and "it was one man's word against another" on whether or not Briggs struck Putney. A hearing has been scheduled October 24 to determine whether Briggs will be retried on the brandishing charge.

Briggs told reporters after the verdict was announced that he would not feel vindicated until he filed and won a defamation-of-character suit against the district attorney and other public officials who "persecuted me."

"They violated my constitutional rights," the former Orange County legislator said. "They refused to investigate the case. They wouldn't talk to me or my lawyer. (District Attorney Ronald) Tepper said this case was purely political."

Briggs also said he plans to press a trespassing charge against Putney. ■

Candlelight AIDS Vigil This Saturday

An AIDS Vigil will be held this Saturday, October 8, in the Castro. From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., a candlelight demonstration will take place on Castro Street between 18th Street and Market.

The event, sponsored by the AIDS/KS Foundation and a bipartisan coalition of political and community groups, is part of an international AIDS vigil with similar demonstrations being held that night in Washington (D.C.), San Diego, Seattle, Denver, Minneapolis, Atlanta, Cleveland, and nine other cities ranging from Springfield (MO) to Amsterdam and Edinburgh.

According to Roger Lyon, a person with AIDS and one of the organizers of the event, the purpose of the peaceful demonstration is to call attention to the federal government's footdragging in appropriating and releasing funds for AIDS research.

"Right now we're about one year behind in getting federal funding. Although obviously we're grateful for the monies we've gotten, it's apparent from the past track record that we must continue to focus attention forcefully on our extremely critical situation. The Legislature and the Administration must realize that, quite literally, ours

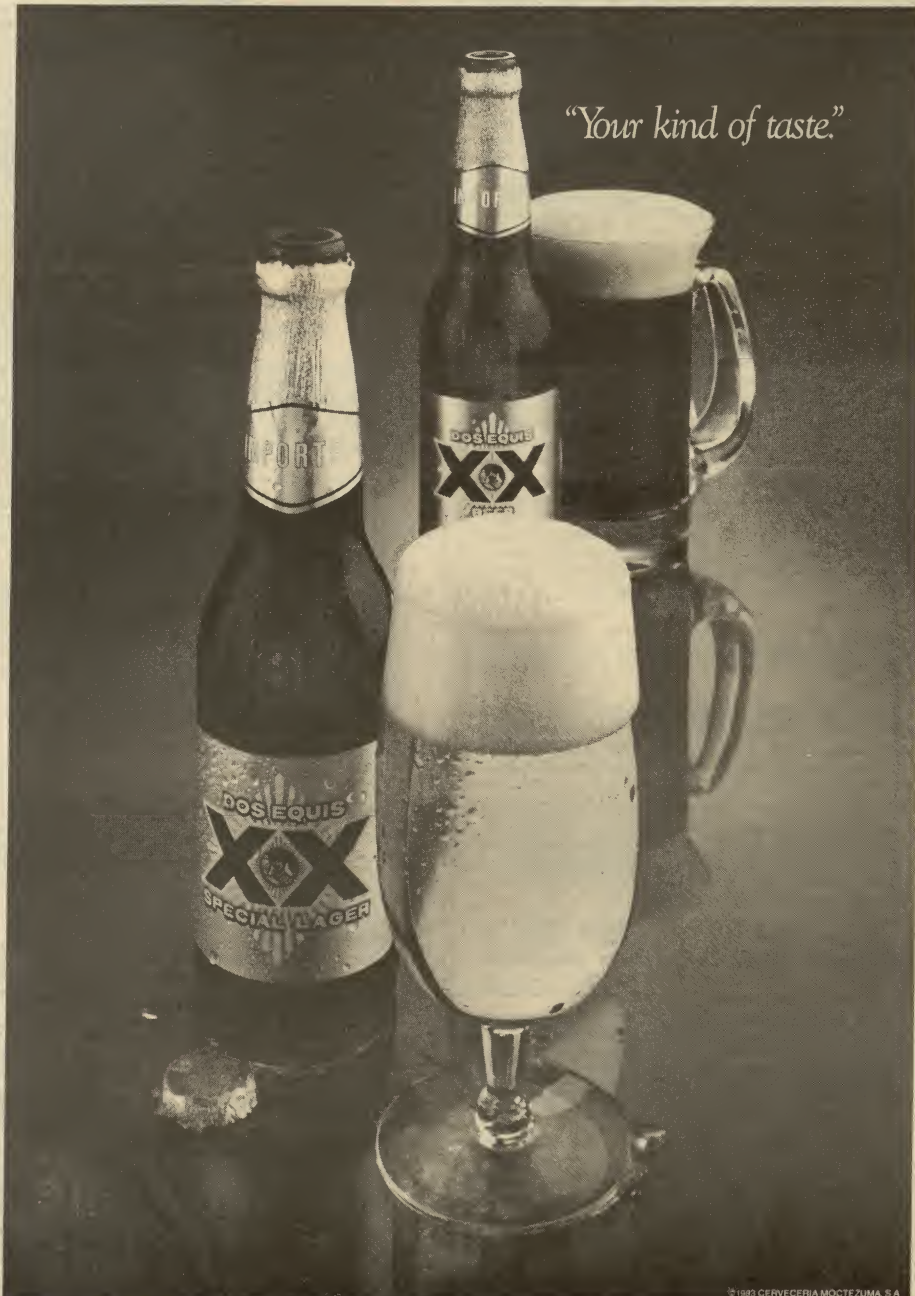
is a life and death situation," said Lyon.

Lyon will be one of the speakers at the Saturday vigil. Also speaking will be Gloria Rodriguez, the mother of a man who died of AIDS; Michael Helquist, the lover of Mark Feldman, who died earlier this summer of AIDS; Dan Turner, another person with AIDS; and Bill Kraus, aide to Congresswoman Sala Burton. ■

Monitors for AIDS Vigil Needed

Monitors are needed for the October 8 AIDS Vigil in the Castro. This vigil, organized to demand that the federal government cut the red tape and release funds for AIDS research, will be held between 7 and 9 p.m. on Castro between 18th Street and Market.

People who wish to be monitors should contact Ed Power at 864-4376. Training will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka, between 18th and 19th Streets. ■



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NEXT DEADLINE: OCTOBER 7

VIEWPOINT

LETTERS

Civic Appointments III Why Gays Need Them

Last issue we targeted five City Commissions where a Gay presence is important to our community and vital to the life of the city. Enlarging our beachhead, we called for seats on the PUC, Planning, Civil Service, Arts, and Parks and Rec.

We would expect them to be balanced between men and women, people loyal to the mayor and her policies. We could almost take for granted they would be moderates (not minions of Harry Britt) and maybe there's even largesse enough for a Gay Republican.

All the minority communities in San Francisco sing the same song. The Blacks, the Chicanos, the Orientals, the Filipinos, the Irish, the Jews are as anxious as each other to expand their clout — at best maintain it — and roil when they see it diminished. Next carve the city up by classes and their advocates and you have another range of special interests clamoring. Not to forget Labor, the Elderly, the Handicapped, Small Business, Corporations, Education, and all the rest even down to the fringe lunacies.

Any one of these piece-of-pie seekers seeing a Gay agenda as this proposed cry "power grab," "the Gays are taking over."

One of the startling (and to some, disquieting) facts that emerged from a phone survey of city attitudes revealed that some 23% of voting-aged San Franciscans are Gay. This was the survey commissioned by Public Defender Peter Keane to see if a client could get a fair trial in San Francisco in 1981. The first reason for Gay appointments is logic. Gays are entitled to 23% of the political appointments. If the mayor has 161 at her touchtone, she should have 37 Gay males or Lesbians she can point to as her own. She's been in office for five years; the space has been there. She has four more to go and each space will be opened again.

During the recall scare, the mayor's aides worked very hard to identify some 16 Feinstein Gay choices (they even included Harry Britt; her nemesis for most of those years). For starters we are underrepresented.

Moreover, these kinds of advances are vital to our community for the esteem and sense of self-worth they engender.

Time was a generation ago where the only place for a Gay to be a free spirit was to go into hairdressing. In any other field he or she was constantly in danger of being unmasked. In the last decade, taking a leaf from the Harvey Milk book, we have learned that the only safe place for a Gay man or Lesbian was out of the closet. We have indulged ourselves this last decade in the fun, frivolity, and madcapness of being out of the closet. But being out to be meaningful must be something more than liberated. It must be the opportunity to be responsible and accountable.

In the private sector we can point to success after success. Gays making it as Gays. From John Schmidt as Chairman of the Board at Atlas S&L, through Rita Mae Brown to Harvey Fierstein.

We also need the entree to prove that we can be more than competent police officers, metermaids, and airline stewards.

Even more significant is the uplifting ability to point to Gays and Lesbians in major civic positions. People committed and like the draught horses pulling along the cart of civic life.

An oft-heard complaint (and flaw) in the Gay liberation movement is that youngsters flee to this town to exercise their liberation ad nauseam. They grow old as outlaws, blaming the system, thumbing their noses at the ushers, the ticket takers, and the janitors of the body politic. Left on the outside we have nothing else to do than be renegades.

If we are to be tamed, we must be invited to pick up and put on the backpack of civic duty. Hopefully in harness we will not lose all of our elan but turn this city to a heady heaven on earth.

(Continued on next page)

Ditch the Bitchiness

★ My, my, my — what a lot of bitchy, backstabbing, petty, hateful letters get written to you. And what a lot you print! If we're going to continue to use the word "Gay" we could at least try and live up to it!

Lighten up, okay?

Christopher Bennedit
San Francisco

P.S. Oh, my Gal! I've just written a bitchy letter!

Dump the Director

★ As a gay man concerned with the problem of AIDS I must ask the following question — Why does the KS Foundation keep Rick Crane on the staff? Why does the B.A.R. not do a story on this incompetent person? I know that Health Department officials and members of the KS Board all agree that Rick Crane must go and everyone seems to be afraid to say his name. This makes the Gay community look silly once again. Will you please do a story on this problem? I know the focus of the Randy Shilts story had Mr. Crane in mind, but why won't he mention his name?

What is everybody trying to hide?

This is the only letter I have ever written to an Editor. I hope you will understand what I am asking. Help! Help! Help!

Glenn Gustafson

No Gay Unions

★ Contrary to the statement made in the September 8 editorial, the labor issues at Without Reservations have not been resolved to the employees' satisfaction, but we, the workers at Luisa's, New York City Deli, Without Reservations, and their supporters, disagree with Lorch's suggestion that the only way lesbian and gay workers can win decent working conditions is through a separate gay union.

Separate unions divide workers, promoting competition instead of solidarity. Lesbians and gays, along with women, Blacks, Asians, Latinos and Latinas, all of whom have suffered similar prejudices from some union leaders, must work for a strong presence within the union — we can make the union work for us. Our strength as workers is in numbers.

Rence Svetina, Luisa's
David Parrish, Luisa's
Marie Kiefer, Luisa's
Lori Dorfman, Luisa's
Michael Ginther, Luisa's
Wes Munk, NYC Deli
Lisa Rubin, Supporter
Kim Schieber, Luisa's
Marc Cole, Supporter
Sandy Weider, Luisa's
Madeleine Winter, Supporter
Rob Daoud, Without Reservations

ED. NOTE: Sorry, I didn't say that the only way Gays could win decent working conditions is through a separate Gay union. I said that in other areas of the body politic Gay presence has grown considerably. The case is not the same in the union establishment or management. If the union brass can't or won't open up, then as Gays have done in instance after instance they have formed their own facsimile.

The writers say that separate unions divide workers. This is guessing . . . poor at best. Have the Gay Democratic clubs divided Democrats when confronting the opposition?

P. Lorch

Correction

★ Since I have had trouble trying to meet older Black men, I decided to try your classified section. Unfortunately the "gremlins" got loose in your typesetting and/or proofreading departments and the last two numbers of my P.O. Box were left off. When I called about the omission, I was assured that the ad would be corrected and run again. However, since many Blacks have been ill-treated I didn't want the men responding to my ad to feel that another "joke" was being played on them when they got their letters back saying there was no such address.

I have attended social activities sponsored by both G-40+ and Professionals Over Thirty, the latter of which I heard some very racist remarks made by the "founder" and of course there were no Blacks present or he wouldn't have said them. G-40+ seems to also be very WASPish, but I don't feel it's deliberate on their part. Even BWMT seems to attract very few Blacks in the older age bracket. Does life end at 40 for Black men?

R. Allen
San Francisco

Detour on Track

★ A response to John Becker's letter (Carding in the Castrol). We are very curious as to the circumstances surrounding Mr. Becker's friend's problem September 6 at the Detour. Both of us are regular customers of this establishment and have observed the staff and operating policies for some time and find this complaint hard to believe.

The Detour is one of the few bars in the city that we have encountered with a consistent attitude of friendly, quality service and integrity in dealing with their customers. Yes, we have seen some people requested to leave and politely shown to the door. The only common denominator these people shared was rude and/or inappropriate behavior (i.e. drunk, abusive, etc.).

Reading between the lines of Mr. Becker's letter, a few questions come to mind. Is it possible that the photo ID presented to the doorman did not conform to his friend's colorful and unique current appearance, hence the request for further identification? Or, is it possible that along with the less than conservative attire and "punked-out haircut" came a "punked-out attitude?" Both of us have acquaintances and friends, female and new wave, that we have taken to and met at the Detour and they have never had any problems.

We are, however, in full agreement with Mr. Becker's belief that gay elitism and bigotry are more destructive to our lives than anything the straight "community" can possibly do.

The question is, Mr. Becker and friend, what are you doing about it? Have you approached Women's groups and asked if you can help? Have you asked a bar's management (the Detour?) what their policies are? Do you go to Women's bars and try to make friends and bridge the chasms of bigotry that so offend your sensibilities?

Probably not. After all, it is SO much easier to ENJOY the freedoms other people work and fight for, write letters and BITCH!

Patrick Welch
Jerry McGhee
San Francisco

Picture, Picture

★ Who was that hot-looking man without a name on page 14 of this week's issue? Show us more!

Ken Eihavim
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: In this week's issue there is no picture of anyone on page 14.

P. Lorch

B.A.R.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Published weekly, Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit or reject any ad which the publisher believes is in poor taste or which advertises illegal items which might result in legal action against Bay Area Reporter. Ads will not be rejected solely on the basis of politics, philosophy, religion, race, age or sexual preference. Advertising rates are available on request. Our list of subscribers and advertisers is confidential and is not sold. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, and writers and articles published herein is neither inferred nor implied.

LETTERS

Duke, Come By

★ I wish Duke Armstrong had attended some parade meetings before he wrote that little piece in the *B.A.R.* If he had attended, he would have found a broad range of political trips. One guy from Palo Alto objected when a person with AIDS was to be elected Parade Secretary. He said that the guy might be "too weak." This Palo Alto character follows a right-wing line on just about everything, including trying to stop a childcare committee from happening, and complains about "politics," even though the parade is by definition political. There's a Berkeley woman who objects to everything and everybody, just to hear herself speak. She takes a right-wing position also. Then there's the so-called bisexuals, most of whom say they're really not. They appear to be plotting some kind of coup using bisexual rights as an excuse.

So Duke, why don't you come by and see for yourself, before you write your next little piece on the parade?

Allan Terpil
San Francisco

Knock It Off, Anita

★ Yaaaaahhh!! Just when I thought it was safe to drink orange juice again, she's back — this time with a sacramental purpose! That woman! Is there *no end* to this miserable person's dreary and protracted exercise in public posturing and religious obsession? How long will she continue to search (at our expense) for a career that never was, relentlessly seeking a God and an audience who have permanently tuned her out? *Can't anyone get this woman some help?* (And out of our collective hair where she's been ensnared for six years now, like a rabid bat!)

Knock it off, Anita! Mother has a headache today. I just don't think I can take another comeback!!

Frayed Ends, Frazzled Nerves, Jumpy-
and-Jittery-All-Night-Sissy
(And Hold the OJ)
El Cerrito, CA

Macy's Replies to Complaint

★ Mr. Jay D'Amato:

Macy's California sincerely regrets your having had to witness the unpleasant incidents which occurred September 11 in our Men's Shoe Department.

Please be informed that the individuals involved were removed from the selling floor and received a formal reprimand by the store manager.

Our training program stresses the importance of excellent customer service and we are continually working to improve that area. Perhaps you can understand, then, our extreme displeasure in learning that any of our employees have displayed unfriendly and/or discriminatory behavior.

We are fortunate that individuals such as yourself care enough to speak out when incidents of this nature occur. Please accept our full appreciation and thanks for your having taken the time to write to our store manager. It helped us to take immediate action.

Karen Firestone-Roderick
Public Relations Manager

Denigrating Language

★ Paul Lorch's unfocused September 1 "Viewpoint" entitled "Taking on Establishment Blacks" is outrageous. His consistent use of denigrating language implies that "we" (the Lesbian and Gay Liberation Movement) did something wrong by confronting the leaders of the D.C. Jobs, Peace, and Freedom Rally, by creating a public furor, by forcing them to include "us," by refusing to accept tokenism, by establishing a mechanism for ongoing consultations, and ultimately by WINNING a clear-cut victory. I wonder if Lorch's problem is that "we" whites didn't do it. Rather, the strategy was conceived and delivered by several national and international Gay groups under the leadership of the National Coalition of Black Gays — an organization Lorch refused to name.

Lorch claims that Black Lesbians and Gays have had a "free ride of sorts in the Gay Liberation train." His analogy demonstrates his rigidity. He cannot accept that there are routes to liberation other than aboard his train with its rigidly fixed tracks, its inflexible route, and its pre-programmed stops. If Blacks are not visible on Lorch's train, I remind him that whites segregated the trains in the first place. I suggest that he stop looking only on board and start looking outside to notice that there are many non-whites headed for the same end point via their own routes. If there have been free rides to liberation, they have been for the white Gay men who have piggy-backed on the advances earned by Blacks and women.

Lorch admits that there is racism in the Gay community but denies that it is active and virulent. Just as Lorch's train is heavily segregated, so is the Gay community nationwide. Gay bars use carding policies to deny admission to non-whites. Gay employers maintain "white only" hiring policies. Gay newspapers define "newsworthy" to mean "of interest to white readers."

Mainstream Gays (those on Lorch's train) refuse to address any issue (like racism in the Gay community, or urban gentrification) which might put themselves in an uncomfortable spot. I guess Lorch defines "active and virulent racism" to include only cross-burnings and lynchings.

Lorch observes that there is much personal benefit from coming out; unfortunately he doesn't seem to realize that it is not sufficient to simply step from a closet onto a train of middle-class white men. Lorch's train is a dead weight for the Lesbian and Gay Liberation movement. It will remain a dead weight until Lorch and other mainstream "leaders" can learn that the Lesbian and Gay community is composed of more than them.

Why can't they learn to welcome the wisdom available from non-whites and from women. Why can't they learn to stop belittling the achievements of others? Most importantly, why can't they learn that, in order to achieve Gay rights, white Gay men must be willing to consider and address the issues which are important to all the various segments of the Lesbian and Gay community, as well as those issues important to the community's potential allies?

Tom Horan
San Francisco

ED. NOTE: I have reread the editorial; I have reread the letter. According to the letter writer I am guilty of about every crime since Cain and Abel.

I feel that my major crime was that I dared to comment on pluses and minuses in the Black participation in the Gay liberation movement — as I saw them.

We all know it's not valid to direct the argument at *hominem*, but since that rubric has been breached, let's push it one point further. Mr. Horan, a white, middle-aged anti-racist, seems to be gripped by an unfortunate failing of the reformer: The evil spirit Mr. Horan seeks to exorcise is not outside him but within. He would label it righteous indignation; I would call it self-hatred spewing malevolence on others.

P. Lorch

Club Booster

★ This week's edition of *B.A.R.* showed us people the whole community can be proud of. While the rest of us were fighting with each other, Milk Clubbers went out and got the ball rolling on a national AIDS lobbyist to get us needed research money. They're the same folks who put out that straight-talking for is it gay-talking? brochure "Can We Talk?" Congratulations to them and to you for covering this important and heartwarming story.

J. Brett Carmichael
San Francisco

Gay Parents Sought

★ I am a lesbian mother in the process of writing a resource and support book for gay fathers, lesbian mothers, their lovers and children. The book will examine the social, legal and emotional ramifications of being both gay and a parent in a positive, supportive light. It will also include an extensive listing of pertinent resources within the gay community.

It is important that this book represent lesbians and gays across the country. Much of the material will be gleaned from contact with parents and families and I am looking for people willing to complete and/or distribute preliminary questionnaires and permit me to interview them regarding their experiences.

I would deeply appreciate hearing from individuals and organizations involved with gay/lesbian parenting regarding their experience and advice. The identities of correspondents will be kept strictly confidential at all times and discretion is assured. If you would be interested in contributing to an important resource for the gay community, please write to: Parenting Project, 806 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

Joy A. Schulenburg
San Francisco

Fairie Fire

★ Could you please print these two replies to letters from your column?

Mona S.

Your hysterical, raving letter, wherein you pathetically ask our forgiveness, leaves me unmoved. It's a tape I've heard a thousand times. Is it real or is it *Memorex*? You thrust yourself into the scene on Castro Street and you wrote that letter to the editor — both as pathological attention getting maneuvers (I know, being a media queen myself). Quite in the style of the classic, neurotic, hypocritical-christian, socialite tradition. Way to go, Mona! Another christian who (Jesus being not-quite enough) gets it where she can.

Jas. Oliver Larson, Jr.

Your comments concerning Nazis and book burnings are alarming — especially when you consider how much better those remarks apply to the repressed, regimented ranks of right-wing fundamentalists (burning books regularly through the generations) than they do to a motley crew of fun-loving fairie wackos. The fairies only wanted to hold up a mirror to reflect the folly of fanaticism. I guess it's only natural that the fanatics would look into the fairies' mirror and say, "Looking pretty good today."

Priestette w/deer antlers
San Francisco

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VIEWPOINT

(Continued from previous page)

Gays are an inexhaustible source of energy waiting to be put to work.

The mayor senses this to a degree. It remains — and possibly it will be her place in history — to take this revolution and turn it into the plowshares of a better life.

Even Sister Boom Boom is but a novice waiting to be posted to a missionary position.

Paul Lorch

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LETTERS

Fairies Burning

★ In the September 23 edition two letters appeared condemning the Bible Bar-B-Q perpetrated by Radical Fairies. One Mona S. found it necessary to distribute her charred deity to others of the Master Faith around the U.S. To what end, the promoting of more fag-bashing and Jesoid bigotry?

The other letter by Jas. Oliver Larson, Jr. makes an analogy with Nazi book burnings. Under scrutiny this does not hold up. The Nazis were aiming at eliminating all books that didn't agree with the national socialist ideology. This program cannot be attributed to the Fairies by any stretch of the imagination. The act of the Fairies was a symbolic one of anger against the Jesoid right.

Mona S. and Mr. Larson should best look to the historical origins of the Nazi movement. In reading *Mein Kampf* we find numerous allusions to Martin Luther who in his "Against the Jews and Their Lies" (1543) called for burning of the synagogues and confiscation of Jewish property. In one of his final sermons he exhorted Germans to anti-Semitism by proclaiming, "... if the Jews refuse to be converted we ought not to suffer them or bear with them any longer."

To further illustrate this I close with two quotes:

"The sin of homosexuality is so grievous, so abominable in the sight of God, that he destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of this terrible sin ... The result of men's and women's rejection of God is corrupt behavior that not only destroys individual lives but also destroys national life."

Jerry Falwell from *Listen, America*

"We cannot permit such a danger to the country. Homosexuals must be eliminated. Homosexuals must be eliminated root and branch."

Heinrich Himmler, Reichsfuhrer SS

Laughing Squirrel
 Oakland, CA

Bum Contest

★ I was appalled to read in Allen White's column (Aug. 11, 1983) about the "best bag lady and best bum" contest and related "festivities" (!) held in San Francisco last month. To poke fun at the homeless is a pretty grim joke.

I wonder what the organizers of these "bag lady" events would think about a gala in which prizes were awarded for best AIDS patient drag, replete with bandages and realistic looking sores. Perhaps entertainment could feature synchronized wheelchair dancers as well as a vocalist propped up in a hospital bed.

Pretty funny, huh?!

John Reynolds
 New York City

An Independent

★ I have never before written to a newspaper, but the comment of M. Lucas, in Open Forum, September 15, page 9, was so appropriate to my own way of looking at the matter of love between gay people, and so well-expressed, that I felt compelled to add my two cents worth.

I have lived and worked in virtually every city of any size in America, and have enjoyed a vigorous sex life, mostly monogamous in nature, for over 50 years. I would have to say that my own experiences and observations bear out the statements of M. Lucas completely.

The editors of various gay periodicals never cease to belabor and berate those who decline to parade down the street wearing a sign that says "I like to have my ass fucked!" but at least 80% of the gay people in this country take no part whatever in the "gay scene;" are seldom, if ever, seen in a gay bar; neither advertise nor try particularly to conceal the fact that they are gay; and have never had a problem in their lives with employers or landlords on account of their sexual orientation. The "gay activists" have done nothing whatever for us that we wanted, or needed, done; and we find the prattling of these puerile 25-year-olds boring and juvenile in the extreme whenever we are exposed to them.

All of this should be entirely obvious to such as Ms. Goodstein, Turner, et al, particularly if, as they suppose themselves to be, they are wise and learned enough to advise others, but they seem, even more than most of us, to be long on wind and guts, but short on wisdom.

When I can go into a gay bar, or any gay gathering, without seeing some older person sitting alone, dying of loneliness, while the younger crowd laughs it up and enjoys themselves, totally oblivious and uncaring about the older person's pain, then I will believe that these avant-garde types have something going for them besides big mouths and even bigger egos.

Bobby Ackerson
 Modesto, CA

Not Backing Down

★ Contrary to Tom Rogers' statements regarding the/his retraction in the September 22 issue of *B.A.R.* — I WAS INDEED questioning the motives and integrity of a select group of people involved with the Santa Clara Chapter of the AIDS/KS Foundation!

Lanny J. Revoir
 Sunnyvale, CA

Lesbian on Filth

★ I have lived in S.F. 14 months. I am a 29 year old Lesbian who despite the fact admits coming from the Midwest (Chicago area) consider myself rather open-minded. I've been reading *B.A.R.* for about a year. I enjoy your diversity of articles, especially those re: Lesbians, religion, AIDS, and book/movie write-ups. I pick *B.A.R.* up either at Operation Concern or MCC, two very upstanding, dignified Gay organizations.

I cannot appropriately explain how downright rude and offensive I find your graphic pictures and ads, especially near the end of your paper. You directly insult my integrity and intellect when you repeatedly run pictures of faggots getting it on or vainly showing off their prized (?) possessions. It is disgusting, degrading, and deplorable! I am aware of this democratic process called freedom of the press, but must you insist on insulting your female readers with such blatant filth? It seems rather evident your paper is written by and for white, middle-class to rich faggots but isn't it possible to stay in business without trashy pictures and ads in an otherwise informative, innovative paper?

Sandy Helgeson

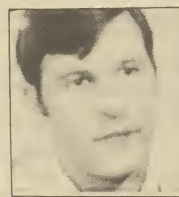
ED. NOTE: We don't do it for business; we do it because we enjoy it. We are about sexual liberation. We do not see it as filth.

Some readers skip over the front of the paper to get to the back. We suggest you enjoy what you enjoy and skip the rest. The Bay Area Reporter is not Better Homes and Gardens.

P. Lorch

White Tactics

★ Your readers should have been shocked at the childish lip-flapping journalism regarding the release of Dan White.



Anyone who has been around here knows it is much cheaper and much safer to take care of such problems while the subject is in prison. For a few cartons of cigarettes it can be assured that White has both knees broken; for a half dozen cartons and a little coke it can be assured that Dan White never walks out of Soledad. Now those are the top prices for it is a little difficult to take care of cops who end up in prison. They are put into "protective custody" but no one can be totally protected in a prison setting and if you are doing a half dozen life sentences anyway, then there is very little incentive to keep from offing one more. However, it must be remembered to the super macho convict White might be as big a hero as he was to the judge who sent him to prison.

But to talk of looking after Dan White after he is released is worthy only of grade school and kindergarten macho types.

However I would question, contrary to the spirit of your editorial, whether or not there is anyone foolish or interested enough to do a thing that would surely bring a life-time of waiting on death row. I have never heard of lots of threats but they are to be dismissed as mouthings. The spirit of your writing would have us believe there might be hundreds, perhaps thousands who would bound Dan White after his release. You must have been using some strong stuff that day. You finally might find a handful who remember Harvey Milk and who are vindictive enough to do such a thing.

Your readership has it in its power to make a hero of Dan White by carrying on vigilante type activity. Do not blame Dan White that his punishment for murder was so light, blame his accusers, his prosecutors, and the system.

Your publication would be serving its readers far better if the tendency to make a media event of the release of White is forgotten. Any emotion engendered cannot serve the homosexual community's best interests. You must remember that most of us did not know Harvey Milk, and that those who have followed in his footsteps and/or taken his name have not added to his fame.

Guy Strait
 San Francisco

Where's Our Share?

★ An article appeared in the *Chronicle* today stating that the U.S. Government was appropriating \$628 million dollars to the United Negro College Fund, when in fact, the AIDS research program only received \$68 million. It's not fair when our beautiful young men are dying around us and this government isn't really concerned. We have a minor epidemic on our hands or does anyone care? The deaths from AIDS is greater than Legionnaire's Disease but that involved heterosexuals.

But what about US?

Phil Bennington
 San Francisco

LETTERS

Prison Pen Pals

The Bay Area Reporter has not screened any of these correspondents. While we think it a good idea to keep lines open to these inmates, we do not wish any of our readers to be exploited. We suggest anyone who writes not to send money, not to get emotionally involved, nor to make promises on places to stay, etc.

Keep in mind some of those men are in maximum security prisons. They didn't get there for jaywalking. All the same, some are good people; some are not.

Desperate in Florida

★ To whom it may concern, my name is David Baldwin. I am an inmate incarcerated in the state of Florida and I am in desperate need of someone that I can correspond with to make time go by a little easier. So if you can send me information on how I can correspond with someone through a pen-pal section or an ad placed in a publication I would sincerely appreciate it very much. Thank you. I am "waiting and all alone."

David Baldwin, #053309
P.O. Box 747-2-N-16
Starke, FL 32091

Florida Bi

★ I am a young bisexual inmate at the Florida State Prison. I have no one on the outside to correspond with so could you please run the following ad in your paper for me? I am desperate for someone to share my feelings and friendship with so please do this for me.

"Handsome bisexual inmate seeks friends of both sexes to correspond with. I am a semi-virgin so would appreciate those who could help me learn. Would prefer female but will gladly correspond with passive men. I am 21, 5'11", blond hair, green eyes. I weigh 190 lbs. and am well built everywhere! Please write and let's be friends. Thank you and much love."

Jerry Starnes
22-3111, Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

Florida Black

★ I would like for you to print this ad for me: "Lonely prisoner would write to anyone, Black M., 5'7½", 140, like sports, good books, etc."

Thanks for your time.

Darryl Smith, #A072237
P.O. Box 747
Starke, FL 32091

Sincere Floridian

★ My name is Timothy Geddis, and due to unfortunate circumstances I am, and have been for almost six years, incarcerated in the state of Florida. I am at the moment residing at Zephyrhills Correctional.

Over the years I have lost contact with many friends and have not written to anyone for some time. A friend here gave me your address. Although I am heterosexual, I do and have had homosexual friends. This is why I have chosen to write.

Your newsletter says to give some description of oneself. Well, I am 6'1" and weigh 180 pounds, have light brown hair and blue eyes. I am into physical fitness and also I am 34 years old. I am originally from Cape Cod, where I grew up. My interests generally seem to lie with the arts. I enjoy painting and sculpting and have a passion for antiques, mainly glassware. In my spare time I also write poetry.

Well, I suppose I have written enough about myself. But before I close, for the record, I would like to state that I am writing looking for some sincere correspondence. I have no desire to swap lies or otherwise be deceitful in any way. I am an honest and sincere person looking for the same to correspond with. Thank you for your time.

Timothy Geddis, #633309
P.O. Box 518
Zephyrhills, FL 33599
#190

Indiana Pal

★ I am a 23 year old man incarcerated in Indiana with no one to write to or to call my friends.

It seems the gay community is where I belong, and I would very much like to find some "good people" to correspond with. Any help you may give me will be appreciated.

"I am a 23 year old G/W/M, 5'9", 168 lbs., dark brown hair, hazel eyes, well built, looking for someone to care for, only six months left here. I've got a lot of love for the right man. Only serious need reply."

Randy Collins, #14649
P.O. Box 41
Michigan City, IN 46360

Tehachapi Plea

★ As time swiftly swings on I have fortunately grasped a few moments to express to you (family and staff) in hopes that all of you are enjoying love and life. This missive leaves me in excellent health, physically, but mentally and spiritually I'm experiencing no joy and the pain cuts through me! It's possible that you've heard

from me before, for I've written so, so many letters to newspapers and magazines alike seeking help... that I've lost track and count. Nonetheless, I KNOW that I'm not about to quit now... for I've learned all too well that "A quitter never wins... and a winner never quits." So here I am again, just as determined and steadfast as ever.

I'm presently incarcerated in Tehachapi, and I must tell you honestly that my financial status is null and void. I do hope that plea for help reaches your heart and mind and allows me the opportunity to make a few friends before being released this year.

In the past five years my life and being have undergone quite a positive change through self-programming and a burning desire to be a productive citizen again. Too often, here in prison, we tend to think it does not have a positive side. After attending many self-help programs dealing with self-discipline, self-image, self-confidence, creative visualization, applied-faith, going the extra mile, accurate thinking, etc. But in that respect, I imagine there are very few people anywhere who can cheerfully accept the unpleasant circumstances which their actions, attitudes and habits have brought them. Still less are they able to grab hold of that "slim thread" of aspiration and attempt to change the very structure of their lives. I, having a deep love for self has without doubt enabled me to acknowledge and visualize the potential within myself that says be all that you can be.

I am due to be released in late 1983 (2½ months left) and I'm trying so very desperately to align myself with some secure, caring friends. So will you please hear my plea and print my ad? I'll be forever grateful. There's no doubt in my mind whatsoever as to my success, for I'm a master designer and tailor. I'm truly lonely.

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Frederick Davis
B-96000 V.W.U.151
P.O. Box 107
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Per-spee-teeves

★ With all the assholes there are in this country, obviously a few are bound to be Gay, I suppose, speaking of which, I found the letter in your September 8 issue from "Name on File - San Francisco" to be a typical comment. His statement regarding prisoners that, "From my perspective these men had a choice between being law-abiding citizens and participating in the freedoms of this land or stepping outside the law and dealing with the consequences," is absurd. To continue that, "I have no sympathy for these men. Felons really don't deserve pity or sympathy. Our prisons and the penal system are too lenient as is," is ludicrous. Did this nut just get off the boat or what? Hopefully the following will sober him up a bit.

A. Believe it or not there are a good many parents out there who bring kids into this world and once they arrive, for all intent and purpose, forget them. They become the victims of child abuse. Physical and/or mental. They grow up unwanted, unloved, and all too often unmotivated, undisciplined, and unlawful. The most that will happen to their parents if they are ever taken to court and found guilty will be that the kids will be taken from them and put in foster homes. The odds that the kids will wind up in an adult detention facility — PRISON — are better than 10-1. (For those who are interested, there is a beautiful film out on a very sick subject. It's called Abuse, and is about a Gay man who is making a film on child abuse as, I believe, his master's thesis project at college.)

B. In many states in this union you can go to prison for possession of less than an ounce of grass. I hope this nut doesn't get off on getting stoned.

C. In all too many states you can also wind up in prison for sucking the right dick in the right place at the wrong time. Maybe this nut's perverted and doesn't do these things.

D. Further, not everyone was so fortunate as to be born a blond, blue-eyed, white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant MALE either. Tell them about your per-spee-teeves on being a law-abiding sit-tee-zen, just participating all over the place in the "freedoms of this land." The fact is that freedom is measured in "degrees." To what degree you are free is socially and economically determined. Your per-spee-teeves might change if tomorrow you were without friends or funds. Strange how these things work, ain't it!

E. Then there are those who live in a Closet in fear that someone they don't want to know will find out that they are GAY! They send letters to Gay papers and sign their name "Name on File - San Francisco." If that's this character's idea of participating in this country's freedoms, he's more fucked up than I thought! So much for his PER-SPECK-TEEVES!

Scott T. Bishop
San Francisco

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Hayward's Rights Group On the Way Out?

Money Owed, Newspaper Dies, Members Lose Interest

by Tom Rogers

Normally a dying hero is minimally accorded a media recap of his achievements and other forms of recognition that appropriately notify everyone of their eminent loss.

The Hayward Equal Rights Organization, East Bay's HERO, beleaguered by a series of dormant periods during its seven-year history, is apparently in the throes of yet another, perhaps fatal dormancy.

HERO's biggest achievement had been the publication of a community newspaper (named *The Challenge*). *The Challenge* has had publication suspended on more than one occasion when HERO's leadership found the community's response and support too lacking to continue. Like too many of the country's younger and smaller Gay communities, there have been too few willing hands available to bring focus or funds to the community on a continuous or sustained basis. Those who did pitch in, as well as those who do now, suffer "burn-out," a well-known problem among community volunteer projects.

Another well-known problem among said projects is the fault-finding from among its already-beleaguered contributors, to establish responsibility for everything from cause of the project's failure to establishing who will be responsible for cleaning up the details involved in closing down shop.

According to the Vice-President of HERO, both the organization and the newspaper are now dying. "Nobody in the community has their heart in it," said Danny Burris in an interview last week.

"At the moment, everything is up in the air. The HERO constitution reads that in order to disband the organization, notice of that intent requires public posting for thirty days. Although we (the board members of HERO) decided that was what we would do, it never got done," said Burris. "Now we'll have to meet again."

The Bay Area Reporter was notified of the organization's difficulties when a news release and a letter from Lane E. Thomsen and Joseph Elia (HERO's current Treasurer) arrived explaining their problems with the other current members of the HERO board in the process of closing down the organization.

Thomsen and Elia operate a printing business in Hayward that HERO has used "for years and years" in their own words, to print *The Challenge*. Both their letter and the news release were a bitter response to HERO's Board of Directors for their handling of a *Challenge* printing bill that they say amounts to more than \$1,000. Other board members don't see it that way.

In a meeting held August 1 to settle the details of disbanding HERO, they insisted that the two printers' attempt at discussion of the printing bill brought about "a lot of shouting and the normal reception expected by two snakes who just happened to accidentally slither into the meeting."

Thomsen and Elia pointed out that they've both "been patient" in carrying the HERO account over the years and "have donated time, money, talent, energy, services, etc."

Before the August 1 meeting, however, they "got tired of the

outstanding bill and turned it over to a collection agency."

"We were informed (at the meeting) that there was \$400 plus dollars in HERO's bank account. We were asked if we could accept this. We said, 'No,' as it was in the hands of the collectors and we did not feel that it was a fair amount."

"We were further told (on three separate accounts) that if we did not settle for that amount it would be given to another non-profit organization (donated in HERO's name) and there would be nothing at all for us to get against the outstanding bill."

The printers went on to detail their anger. "Even if we never get a dime out of the long-past due bill, it will live with us forever. It will always influence our feeling when it comes to doing busi-

ness with a Gay person, and it will always be present when it comes to dealing with any Gay organization," wrote Elia and Thomsen. (They write that during the ten years that they've been in the business, they've had a few problems with their collections, and "it's strange that 90% of those problems involve our Gay brothers and sisters. We never requested a deposit or front money. One day we took notice of all of our accounts receivable and the problems in collecting them. They were basically connected to the Gay community. So many orders were placed and never seen [sic] or heard from the individual again. We then decided that a deposit of 50% up front was necessary and 50% balance due when the job was picked up, which seemed to cure the problem."

When asked what would be the new Board of Directors, Burris said, "We, the printers, were made a lot of promises that were never kept, but by now this was commonplace. We had a running bill for years and years with HERO — it was nothing new."

When asked what would be

HERO could well be down for the count.

ness with a Gay person, and it will always be present when it comes to dealing with any Gay organization," wrote Elia and Thomsen. (They write that during the ten years that they've been in the business, they've had a few problems with their collections, and "it's strange that 90% of those problems involve our Gay brothers and sisters. We never requested a deposit or front money. One day we took notice of all of our accounts receivable and the problems in collecting them. They were basically connected to the Gay community. So many orders were placed and never seen [sic] or heard from the individual again. We then decided that a deposit of 50% up front was necessary and 50% balance due when the job was picked up, which seemed to cure the problem."

"In the interim, we became involved with Hayward Equal Rights Organization (HERO) and their newspaper, *The Challenge*. We made every effort to allow the best price possible. We worked with the Board of Directors and Editors of the proud newspaper. Eventually we were both asked to join this organization — we did. Then we were elected to the Board of Directors, as President and Vice-President — no one else wanted the position — so that was easy. We served our term and no one wanted the position so we remained as officers until we could find someone to replace us."

"(Jack Luce from the Turf Club in Hayward decided he wanted the position and felt he could bring the organization and newspaper back to life. He has a lot of energy and had selected what he thought was a great Board of Directors to assist him."

"We, the present Board of Directors, had all but decided to kill the organization and sell or disband the newspaper to pay off its debts, but Jack Luce was ex-

remely unhappy with this idea. He said, 'I want the newspaper, *The Challenge*, to continue — I will be fully responsible for all its debts and I personally will guarantee the printer the money even if I have to pay it out of my own pocket.' Jack Luce was aware that the paper was in debt about \$2,000 plus. We had outstanding ads of approx. \$1,100 to \$1,600 that had not yet been collected. He knew all the facts as they were presented and accounted for at the meeting where he made this statement. Jack Luce wanted his new editor and Vice-President to have every chance with the newspaper, so we continued it."

"(The new Board of Directors took office and they had their fair share of problems. We tried on several occasions," say the

two, "to warn them that things were getting worse and not better. They'd lost ads and did not replace them — some of the advertisers cut their ads in half, etc. We tried repeatedly to explain that the bill was growing. Jack Luce and Louis Alterdice wanted to continue."

"(In a short period Jack Luce and Louis Alterdice found that it was a big struggle and the newspaper was stopped."

"(Nothing happened with HERO or the newspaper for a few months. No one seemed to be able to agree."

"(We got several of the community leaders together and had informal gatherings to see what should be done with HERO and the newspaper. It was decided that we would elect a new Board of Directors and a prior editor, Larry Gray, would become the new President. Larry was confident he could pull it back together with the help of his new Board of Directors."

"(We, the printers, were made a lot of promises that were never kept, but by now this was commonplace. We had a running bill for years and years with HERO — it was nothing new."

This reporter contacted HERO's Vice-President, Dan Burris, who happened to be (vacationing) at Jack Luce's Turf Club.

"We wondered what they would do about resolving this," said Burris when told of the news release's contents. "Now we know."

Burris took exception to the amount owed. "It comes out to more like \$950," he claimed, and pointed out that "those two have perhaps lost this amount but have made thousands over the years when they handled our printing. I've been to their \$300,000 home. I can't feel sorry for them," he said.

When asked what would be (Continued on next page)

Gay Choruses Shift, Bow Out, and Retool

by Allen White

The direction of local Gay choral groups has undergone almost a total change in the last three weeks.

With a new director the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus has now been officially dropped from Golden Gate Performing Arts. Members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus performed all the male singing roles in the Marin County Opera presentation of *Rigoletto*. Meanwhile, smaller men's chorus groups such as the Men About Town and the Lollipop Guild have disbanded.



The Gay Men's Chorus at a recent rehearsal at the Pride Center. (Photo: Rink)

The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus withdrew from Golden Gate Performing Arts at their last board meeting. GGPA President Steve Muchnick has also resigned. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus is the only remaining performance group in GGPA. After resignations, the board has left Chuck Pedersen, Jay Davidson, Walter Mayes, and Brian Finnegan.

The departure of the mixed chorus is part of a new pattern of a more realistic approach by the various choral groups. The action becomes final with the signing of papers and a mutual understanding of any monetary obligations between the GGPA and the mixed chorus.

The mixed chorus has also announced the appointment of a new volunteer director. He is Gerry Montana, 35, from Chicago. Currently living in Santa Clara, he has a Masters degree in choral music from DePaul University.

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has been going through changes of its own. The chorus has hit its financial and moral bottom and is beginning to rise again—say some of its members. Last weekend members appeared in the Marin Opera Company's production of *Rigoletto*. The presentation is repeated October 7 and 9 at the Marin Civic Center.

Men's Chorus Business Manager Walter Mayes, in a report to the chorus, has taken great effort "to provide an adequate buffer to protect those members

whose right it is not to have our financial concerns jammed down their throats." The seemingly overwhelming debt that the chorus has accumulated has had its toll on the ability of the group to exist. Mayes said, "The business of this chorus is music." The huge debt began with the Gay Chorus' 1981 National Tour which ended up a public relations triumph but a financial disaster.

Artistic Director Ernie Veniegas stated that in the last few weeks over thirty people have been auditioned for positions in the chorus. He also noted there has been a new focus toward concert preparation. November 5 and 12 the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will perform concerts at First Congregational Church. The concert will carry a heavy dose of German literature. The first half of the concert is almost totally the music of Beethoven and Schubert. It is in stark contrast to the pop concert that was performed last Spring at the Opera House. The Gay Men's Chorus is also planning its traditional Christmas concert.

Throughout the existence of the Gay Men's Chorus, two sub-groups, the Men About Town and the Lollipop Guild, were very much a part of the total musical package. With the resignation of Bill Ganz, the Men About Town is now a dormant organization. Without a director, the future of the group is uncertain. With three of the four members resigned, there is no quartet and subsequently no Lollipop Guild. Director

Veniegas is directing all efforts to the large chorus and appears to have given lower priority to the rekindling of the two musical sub-groups. The remaining smaller group, The Chamber Singers, continues under the direction of Robert Erickson.

In addition, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus celebrates its fifth anniversary Friday, October 28, with a party at the Green Room of the Veteran's Building.

★ ★ ★

On the other front, the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Mixed Chorus is currently rebuilding under their new director. Director Gerry Montana hopes to double membership from a current forty to a projected eighty. Unlike the Gay Men's Chorus, the mixed chorus has no requirement that singers read music. The purposes are slightly different with an effort to foster communication between Lesbians and Gay men.

The next performance of the mixed chorus is planned for the Christmas season. They hope to be singing with the Gay Men's Chorus at the annual Nourse Auditorium Yuletide event.

Financially, the mixed chorus lands on fairly solid ground with their departure from Golden Gate Performing Arts. Their next move is to locate a new umbrella organization for tax purposes. Meanwhile, by slashing their expenses to the rock-bottom and fundraising, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus says it is slowly moving to stabilize its financial situation. ■

to raise enough money to cover the bill. "Fundraisers take a lot of work and no one seems to have the time to pull them together," he said.

According to Burris, HERO's Board of Directors is comprised of five people: Larry Gray as President; Burris as Vice-President; Joe Elia as Treasurer; Al Ruiz and Smokey Vargas as Board Members. As the current

leadership of their organization, they are collectively responsible for determining whether the declining HERO will meet *The Challenge's* debt load.

The larger challenge of keeping the organization alive also remains doubtful. At present there are more questions than answers. ■

T. Rogers

Hayward

(Continued from previous page)

done about the printing bills, Burris said the Board of Directors would have to arrange another meeting to discuss the fate of HERO, *The Challenge*, and the printing bill. He was unwilling to say whether something like a fundraiser would be held

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Bar Denies Racism at Door

Black Gay's Complaint Snafued

by Dion B. Sanders

A complaint made by a Black Gay man of alleged discriminatory admissions policies at the Bench & Bar in Oakland is not on file at the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned, contrary to an earlier report last week.

The complaint, which stemmed from an incident September 3 in which the plaintiff, Kevin Wilcox, was refused admission to Bench & Bar because of what management said was improper identification, was not recorded because ABC investigators were unable to understand him, according to ABC district administrator Jay Caldis.

Wilcox appeared at the ABC's Oakland office September 12 to issue his complaint, but did so verbally instead of in writing. Wilcox, 23, suffers from a severe speech impediment, and had such difficulty in making his complaint that investigators could not understand him and thus were unable to record his complaint, Caldis said Friday.

Wilcox is a member of the San Francisco chapter of Black and White Men Together, and the incident occurred the night before BWMT members were to have a Sunday morning brunch at the Bench & Bar as part of its fall Pacific Coast Regional Network conference.

At issue in the dispute is the validity of Wilcox's identification. According to Bench & Bar general manager Paul Hernandez, Bench & Bar accepts only drivers' licenses and identification cards issued by the state of California which include a photo, physical description and date of birth of the person who appears on the cards.

"The person's (Wilcox's) ID did not contain his photo," Hernandez said, "and therefore, we could not accept it."

The ABC's Caldis told the *Bay Area Reporter* that under ABC regulations, out-of-state ID's must have been issued by the state or locality and that they must include photos, date of birth and physical description in order to be valid. Otherwise, establishments reserve the right to refuse entry to persons who carry invalid IDs, including birth certificates.

Caldis said that if Wilcox, still wished to file a complaint, he should do so in writing. Wilcox could not be reached for comment.

Patron claims racism, Bar says not ample ID.

In apparent protest of the incident, the BWMT brunch was abruptly shifted to the home of Bob Hanneman, treasurer of BWMT's East Bay chapter. Hanneman accused Bench & Bar management of discriminating against non-White Gays in admissions, charging that while Wilcox was refused entry, "three obviously underage Whites went in unimpeded." Hanneman told the *Bay Area Reporter* that if the Bench & Bar "are going to pull this kind of number on us when we're spending our money in that place, then we shouldn't have our brunch there."

Hanneman's charges of discrimination against non-White Gays were hotly denied by an infuriated Hernandez — himself a Gay person of color

who was appointed general manager by Bench & Bar owner John Drab September 1. "(As) a Third World person who is a professional in the restaurant business, I am well aware of the problems (of discrimination that Gay people of color often face), but I want to make it very clear that it is not my policy nor will it ever be my policy to discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex or religious affiliation."

Hernandez said that "for me to become general manager of the Bench & Bar should say something to the general public about the policies of the Bench & Bar (concerning Gay people of color)," adding that he is currently reorganizing the staff to include more persons of color.

The *Bay Area Reporter* last week reported that Edgar Rake-

straw, chairman of BWMT/East Bay, had issued a strongly-worded letter of protest to Drab. However, after the article appeared, Rakestraw issued a statement saying that he had decided "not to issue any (letters) about the incident (to Drab) pending the outcome of the ABC investigation."

However, because the ABC has no file on Wilcox's complaint, no investigation is presently being conducted.

Hernandez also expressed anger at BWMT's pullout of its Sunday brunch from Bench & Bar. "We solicited their business. We offered them half-price discounts for their brunch, and for them to accuse us of discriminating against them, I believe, is grossly unfair," he said.

Feinstein for Vice President Boomlet

(Continued from page 1)



Mayor reiterates this week she is not seeking a Vice Presidential nod.

of the Board of Supervisors to author a resolution in support of state consensual sex legislation. She is currently chair of the AIDS task force in the national mayors' association. Recently, Feinstein enthusiastically supported the release of AIDS research/information funds from the city treasury. Nationally, it would be expected that she would continue these efforts.

The idea of a woman on the national ticket has been bandied about for years, but with the new interest in Feinstein the reality has never been closer. There were several plusses moving in Feinstein's favor as newspapers picked up the story last week:

- Sen. Ted Kennedy told several hundred Democratic women in Washington for a leadership conference: "It may well count the most in our success on women's issues in electing women to public office. It is fair to ask why the other democracies in the world are so far ahead of us in this respect."

- Michigan Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths said, "If we have a woman for vice president, we will walk into the Oval Office." Minnesota Lt. Gov. Marlene Johnson said she told Walter Mon-

dale she wanted a woman on his ticket. Mondale said he was "considering."

- Polls continue to indicate that considerably more men than women support President Reagan. Democrats are considering a woman on the ticket to coalesce female opposition to Reagan — including some GOP women.

- Judy Goldsmith, President of the National Organization for Women, stated, "I am ready for a woman vice president. There are any number of women at least as good as George Bush, among them Mayor Feinstein. You're telling me there's no one of equal stature to a Thomas Eagleton, a Spiro Agnew?"

Would Feinstein accept if the nomination became a real possibility when the Democrats have their nominating convention here in July? She replies, "I would not say I would never be interested. Who knows what can happen in the future?"

(*Bay Area Reporter* asked several local Lesbians and Gay men for their reactions to the possible candidacy of Feinstein. Their responses appear elsewhere in this issue.) ■

G. Mendenhall

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Photo by Jim Wigler

News Bits From The Gay Press Circuit

Navy Deserter is Charged 10 Yrs. Later

The U.S. Navy dismissed desertion charges last month against a sailor who fled the Navy only days before he was to be discharged in 1973 after fellow sailors discovered he was a homosexual and threatened his life, according to the Washington Blade.

THE BLADE

Brian Magnotti turned himself in to Navy officials in San Diego in April and asked to be discharged on the basis of his homosexuality. He was instead informed that because of his flight he has committed a crime and would be court martialed. The military judge presiding over the court martial proceedings against Magnotti reduced the desertion charge to unauthorized absence and ordered Magnotti to be given a bad conduct discharge.

Houston Police Ravage Gay Bars

A rash of police raids on Gay bars in Houston, Texas has raised fears of police harassment of Gays, according to the *Montrose Voice*, a Gay newspaper in Houston.

Six police officers arriving in three police cars entered nine Gay bars in Houston over a two-night period last week. Patrons were asked to show identification and managers were asked to produce the bar's liquor license. Several arrests were made, and patrons and bar managers alike said the police were very rude, shining flashlights in people's

Bostonians Hassle Softballers

Two Lesbian softball teams vying for a division title in Boston got more than they bargained for when a group of neighborhood teenagers continually disrupted the competition with verbal and physical harassment, according to the *Gay Community News* of Boston.

The playoff game on September 13 began under a barrage of homophobic and misogynist epithets, and culminated in rock, bottle, and egg throwing by the teenagers. At one point a fist fight broke out between a member of one of the softball teams and one of the youths. Women from the teams said they had attempted to reason with the teenagers but were spat upon.

Gay Community News

faces. At one bar where a party was going on at which several members of the uniform club Texas Riders were present, police unfamiliar with the group's uniform accused a member of the club of impersonating an officer. At another bar a patron who was arrested was not taken to local police headquarters, but to the site of another Gay bar and dropped off.

A task force has been formed by the Houston Police Advisory Committee to look into the matter.

Guysweek

Overcoming Shyness Class for Gay Men

For the fifth year, local Gay psychotherapists Dave Cooperberg, M.A. and Ira Rudolph, Ph. D. are offering a class for Gay men on how to overcome shyness. The class meets from 7 pm to 9:30 pm for four consecutive Sunday evenings starting October 23, 1983. The fee for the class is \$100.

The focus will be on developing social skills to meet people, develop sexual and non-sexual

relationships, and feel more comfortable in social situations. Specific topics will include: verbal and non-verbal communication skills, reducing anxiety, openers, keeping a conversation going, asking for a date, and dealing with fears of rejection and acceptance.

For more information, contact Dave at 431-3220 or Ira at 474-7759.

Pros Over 30

Professionals Over 30/San Francisco will hold a Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 8 PM. The meeting will afford members the opportunity to participate in the

business activities of the group and plan events for the coming six months.

For a reservation call Randy 552-5211 or Stan 826-4725.

For information on Professionals Over 30/San Francisco, write to Tom James, Box 421161, San Francisco, CA 94142.



Commissioner Sue Martin, along with seven other women from the S.F. Commission on the Status of Women, lent her support to the Women's Community Voluntary Blood Drive with a blood donation. A total of 70 voluntary blood donations were made during the two-week campaign, September 10-24, as a symbolic gesture of support for victims of AIDS.

Two uniformed officers arrived at the softball field after three calls to summon police, but the officers seemed most concerned with finding a woman who had allegedly bitten one of the teenagers. Officers never approached any team member to get a statement.

The group of teens dispersed, but after the officers left they soon returned and began to throw eggs at the women. The Boston director of recreation said she has requested that two plainclothes police officers attend the remaining games.

Update

Southern California's Gay NEWSpaper

FBI Snoops On Mass. Victims

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is apparently using a harassment case instigated by Lesbians in Northampton, Massachusetts to investigate Lesbian and Gay participation in progressive and radical political movements, according

to the *Gay Community News* of Boston.

A man suspected of threatening the lives of several Lesbians in Northampton awaits trial, but a woman connected with the case said she was interrogated by an FBI agent about the October 20, 1981 armed robbery of a Brink's Security truck and asked about coalitions between Gay and leftist groups. The woman, who asked to remain unidentified, said the agent implied that if she did not cooperate the FBI would not analyze tapes

Canadian Nun Brought Her AIDS From Haiti

Doctors say the death of a former nun from AIDS who had lived in Haiti for 30 years strengthens the theory that residents of the Caribbean island are a high risk group for getting AIDS, according to *The GLC Voice*, a Gay newspaper in Minneapolis.

Writing in *The Lancet*, the British medical journal, doctors at Toronto General Hospital said the 52-year-old unidentified Canadian woman died after being admitted to the hospital in March 1981 with a fever of unknown origin. She had left her

suspected to be of the arrested man recorded on telephone answering machines. There is only one tape of the man, Robert Kremensky, that is now admissible in court, and the analysis is needed to find out whether threatening messages left on other answering machines are also of Kremensky's voice.

Kremensky faces charges of making annoying telephone calls, threatening to commit a crime and violations of civil rights.

EQUAL TIME NEWS

order a decade earlier to work with prostitutes in the capital city of Port Au Prince. Drs. D.B. Rose and J.S. Keystone said the woman's death indicates AIDS was present in Haiti before the first cases were described in 1981 among male homosexuals there. She had left Haiti in November 1979.

While the former nun lived in Haiti, she had no history of intravenous drug use, blood transfusions, or promiscuous sexual behavior. The doctors reported that the woman had one male sexual contact in Haiti.

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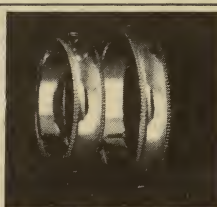
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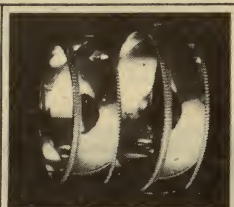
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I am Recovering from AIDS

One Man's Odyssey Rejecting the Doctors

by S. M. Anderson

Do parasites cause AIDS? The medical community continues to look for an unknown virus and in many cases says that treatment of parasites in AIDS patients isn't even necessary.

The following information should be of interest to people who are not satisfied with the typical medical treatment of AIDS.

In April of 1982 I was diagnosed as having Kaposi Sarcoma. At the time of diagnosis I had just recovered from Hepatitis B. At this time I was also diagnosed as having intestinal parasites (E. histolytica). At my request I suggested the correct treatment (not Flagyl) for the parasites. Having had parasites a number of years before, I was aware flagyl did not solve the problem. I also questioned my doctors as to whether intestinal parasites could be causing the Kaposi Sarcoma. In the past I had had problems with my immune system during a period of parasite infestation. I was using common sense and this was ignored by my doctors.

My doctors told me how great triple agent chemotherapy was and how it was doing wonders. They failed to tell me that most

to my doctors and stopped the chemotherapy treatments. The smartest move I have ever done.

During this period of time I was taking high dose Vitamin C (20-40 grams) a day plus a high dose of Zinc and other supplements.

A month after stopping the chemotherapy, I went through some testing and some strange results appeared. I was no longer shedding CMV virus. The IGG and IGM titers for CMV were showing a successful remission of the virus. Also the most important thing was the increase in the number of helper and suppressor cells. My immune responses were also increasing.

Ten months after stopping the chemotherapy my lymphocyte count had doubled and was now in the normal range. After the

**"Was Vitamin C causing
this positive reaction? I believe
SO.**

of the patients on this high dose chemotherapy died.

For four months I believed my doctors and watched them inject "poison" (my doctor's term) chemotherapy agents into my veins. Being a very questioning person I did not put all my eggs in one basket. I immediately started reading Linus Pauling's books on Vitamin C and following his advice. Well, I don't think my doctor was ready for my strange ideas or ready for the test results that followed.

During the months of chemotherapy I gained 15 pounds. I guess I was the only one on chemotherapy on a diet. Besides that, my hair did not all fall out. Was the Vitamin C causing this positive reaction? I believe so.

Being raised to make my own decisions, I immediately started reading everything published in medical journals on Kaposi Sarcoma. Needless to say I got some strange looks from AIDS doctors as I attended technical lectures on AIDS and other immune system lectures at UC Hospital. Very quickly I realized that chemotherapy was not the correct treatment for Kaposi Sarcoma. If raising the immune system results in the disappearance of the Kaposi Sarcoma then why in the hell were the doctors destroying the remaining immune system with chemotherapy?

In July, 1982, I found a very interesting letter published in *Lancet Medical Journal* (May 1, 1982, page 1027). In the letter they mentioned a patient with E. Histolytica and also Kaposi Sarcoma. (wow, just like me) The most interesting bit of information is that he did not receive treatment for the Kaposi Sarcoma but only for the intestinal parasites. It also stated he had been followed for 15 months and the KS had run a benign course. Well, that was all I needed. About this time a skin biopsy showed the KS was not being stopped by the chemotherapy. I showed the article from *Lancet*

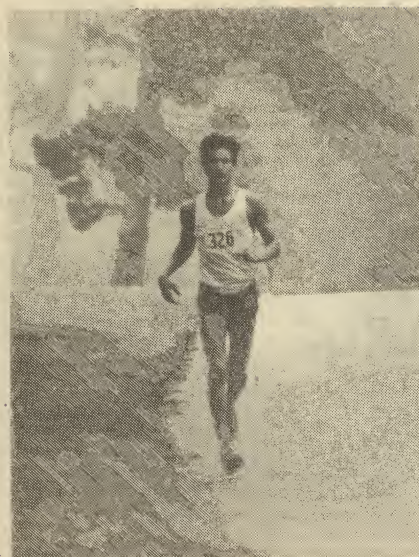
results of that test one of my doctors went out and bought Linus Pauling's book on Vitamin C. I was amazed he had never read it before. Needless to say, many of my friends (including many Gay doctors) are now taking high dose Vitamin C every day.



Some Gay men are getting sick; some are getting sicker. Some are dying. And yet some say they are getting well. (Photo: Rink)

In June, 1983, I read an article in *American Health* (May/June 1983) stating an AIDS doctor had found a powerful suppressor factor in the blood of AIDS patients. This suppressor factor could be inactivated by high dose Vitamin C. What was just as interesting was the fact that intestinal parasites secrete a similar type suppressor factor.

Is this the AIDS puzzle? Do parasites suppress the immune system causing many opportunistic viruses to spread? Can



treating the parasites and high dosing Vitamin C correct the problem? I might not have any medical background, but I can put two and two together. Is this the reason I recovered and did not die? Can it be this simple? How many years will they look for an unknown virus when the answer is not a virus but parasites.

I have tried to get the medical profession to listen to me and this information but I am just a dumb carpenter and they are trained professionals. I can't fight the AMA but I sure as hell can give the information to the people so they can make a decision for themselves.

Many AIDS patients have contacted me about my success and I have given them the following information:

1. Have extensive testing and treatment for parasites. Some have been tested up to ten times before showing positive parasite infestation.
2. Correct treatment for the parasites. Many doctors are treating the parasites with the incorrect medications.
3. Absolutely do nothing to get re-infected again.
4. Immediately take care of your health.
5. High dose Vitamin C taken every hour.

During the past year and one-half many other persons diagnosed with AIDS have taken my advice. These individuals have not gotten sick but have gotten better.

I hope this information will be of help to someone. ■

Art Auction Exceeds Expectations

A quarter of a million dollars worth of art works — Andrew Wyeth, Chagall, Miro, Dali and many others were featured at the auction held for the Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church on September 18 at California Hall. The annual event attracted an overflow audience and produced over \$5,000 in profit for the church according to Rev. James Sandmire. This represents a 300% increase over last year.

A Marc Chagall print which opened at \$2,500 climbed to \$5,000 for the final gavel, at an agonizingly slow pace.

Proceeds from the event are much needed by the church, who's Deaf Outreach and Partners Outreach programs are vital to the city's deaf and runaway youth. ■

Will Condoms Stop AIDS?

Scientists Present Best Evidence to Date: Maybe

by Alex Martin, John Burlison, and Ron Dagani, Ph.D.

In answer to a question posed by a Bay Area Reporter letter writer, a trio of Washington, D.C., scientists, members of Washington Area Gay and Lesbian Scientists (WAGALS), have looked into the safety of condoms in holding back virus. The particular virus in question is the one (even if it does exist, which no one knows) that might cause AIDS. These scientists conclude no one knows for sure, but it's the best guess going.

As Gay scientists with a strong interest in having the AIDS problem solved, we wish to express considerable interest in the substance of a letter by Mr. B. Elswood published in the June 16 issue of *B.A.R.* He had been given to understand, on the like assumption that AIDS is indeed a viral disease and that the virus probably can appear in semen of AIDS victims/carriers, that the use of rubber condoms would provide some margin of "safety" against contracting this deadly disease. And yet, on looking further into the matter, Mr. Elswood asks some genuinely vexing questions about the efficacy of rubber condoms. He notes:

A. Viruses are very small and should be able to penetrate a latex rubber barrier with the ease of mosquitoes going through chicken wire;

B. The Federal CDC apparently advises medical health professionals to wear two pairs of rubber gloves (double layers of chicken wire, if you wish) when working with AIDS patients and their body fluids; and

C. Some manufacturers of rubber condoms apparently issue disclaimers with their products against prevention of viral infection.

cases, it is only logical in the present circumstances that we Gays emphasize some measure of self-imposed control through prevention. We can do many practical things today to minimize our chances of contracting AIDS. Use of rubber condoms may be one means of prevention. In the broader perspective, certain other actions should be obvious: Keep our bodies in good health. (Hence, we hope, maintain strong immune systems.) This means more than frequent workouts at the gym. Maintaining good health includes also paying attention to proper nutrition, getting adequate sleep and probably minimizing (or eliminating) use of alcohol and tobacco. In the sexual area, we should categorically avoid having casual, anonymous sexual contacts (whether in the baths, the backrooms or the bushes). Prudence would seem also to dictate that we restrict our sexual liaisons to a few (perhaps regular), noncasual partners/players; maybe settle into monogamy; develop satisfactory masturbatory fantasies; or become celibate. This is not an all-inclusive list, but just a highlighting of what should be obvious.

Now, what about condoms? Will they work for viral diseases, specifically for preventing AIDS

against trace blood transfer via that route.

Until we know more about the exact nature of the postulated AIDS virus and have gathered retrospective information on the use of condoms in preventing or minimizing its transfer via semen, one can only suggest that no harm is done by taking the extra precaution of using condoms.

As an aside, one individual not connected with manufacturers suggested the use of a spermicide inside rubber condoms as yet another precaution. Some brands of condoms, apparently, even contain a spermicide. Whether a spermicide will inactivate a virus in semen is unclear, but use of a spermicide in condoms is one added precaution that should be considered.

The advisory on using double pairs of gloves seems to be a precaution against accidental puncture of a glove by a torn fingernail or other abrasive objects. Virus researchers have been using latex rubber gloves in handling viral culture material for decades, seemingly with consistent success.

Altogether, these facts would strongly suggest that viruses are stopped by an intact latex membrane. These facts are not proofs positive as to the efficacy of rubber condoms as a barrier to AIDS transmission via semen, but argue that regular use of condoms by Gays to minimize or to eliminate contact, ingestion or inoculation by a plausible AIDS virus in semen is prudent.

Finally, confusion is caused when a given condom manufacturer issues a disclaimer against protection from viral disease. By Federal law, manufacturers of medical devices, including condoms, must prove to the government any claims they make of efficacy of their products. Because a manufacturer may not presently be able to certify a particular application for a product that has other substantiated uses, the manufacturer merely excuses itself from ascribing virtues to its product that might not stand up in court. The efficacy of rubber condoms as birth control devices and as barriers to the common STDs is well known. However, some manufacturers may be hesitant to advertise protection even against herpes virus. More importantly, at the present time, absolutely no manufacturer could possibly make any claims as to efficacy of its products in blocking a postulated AIDS virus in semen. Even the world's best medical researchers aren't yet willing to claim with certainty that AIDS is viral in nature, much less that it can appear in semen.

The bottom line: MAYBE. Maybe condoms will minimize or eliminate transfer of a seminal AIDS virus. Although no proof yet exists and probably won't for a very long time, do we need proof? Unless a Gay man is involved with a known "clean" partner, why not go the extra mile and use a condom?

Even more importantly, we must choose our partners with great care.

The authors are Alex Martin, John Burlison, and Ron Dagani, Ph.D., members of Washington Area Gay and Lesbian Scientists (WAGALS).



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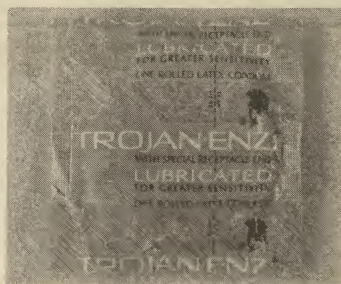
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Quite understandably, therefore, Mr. Elswood asks if he's being told the whole truth.

Our curiosity thus piqued, we set out to answer his questions and thus we hope to cast some light on this "condom caper." Let us begin, however, with a generalized statement about the entire AIDS problem and then return to the condom issue. We feel it is important to keep this issue in perspective with an overview.

Whether AIDS is an entirely new disease, a present-day manifestation of a little-understood disease of foreign origin or, for that matter, derives from other factors, the fact remains that highly sexually active Gay males are at great risk from it. Bear in mind, the study of disease vectors, the macromolecular chemistry of viral disease propagation, the ultimate finding of "cures," etc. are both very complicated and usually protracted processes. Moreover, the classic history of disease control would argue that an ultimate "cure" for AIDS (as for most other serious diseases) will probably be a very long time in development, no matter how much money, time and effort are thrown at the problem.

Assuming, alas, that a "cure" for AIDS is not likely to appear soon (and may, in fact, be years away), and recognizing also the increase in numbers of AIDS

(if viral and if in semen)? One of us discussed the matter explicitly with a cooperative manufacturer, the firm whose most well-known brand name cleverly eulogizes a famous Greek equine war stratagem. Their view — from the horse's mouth — is that their rubber condoms do block transfer of at least one virus species, herpes. This claim seems to be backed up by one governmental study we heard about indirectly. Another argument supporting efficacy of condoms and advanced by this manufacturer happens to appeal to us as physical scientists: An air-inflated rubber condom will hold back air molecules at least for a long time, if it is properly clamped off in a properly controlled experiment. These molecules (mainly nitrogen, oxygen and a little carbon dioxide) are minuscule in size compared to viruses or viral fragments. Condoms can also hold back water for a long period too.

This manufacturer, incidentally, feels confident too that its standard-wall-thickness condoms are sufficiently strong mechanically to withstand the rigors of anal intercourse. If substantiated, this might make the rubber condoms useful not only for blockage of viruses, but also might offer protection

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POLITICS AND POKER

The National AIDS Lobby

WAYNE FRIDAY

The S.F. Fund for an AIDS Lobby is part of a nationwide effort by Gay organizations and AIDS-related service organizations to establish a lobbying office in Washington. The mission: to work for greater AIDS research and other funding from the federal government. The lobbying effort is based on the belief that, although the Gay community and others need to raise funds for patient services, research and public education, the level of re-

pledged obligation. The San Francisco Fund for an AIDS Lobby is incorporated as a non-profit corporation. The President of the S.F. Fund is Dr. David Kessler, one of the founding members of BAPHR; the board members include Bob Ross, publisher of the *Bay Area Reporter* and a director of the Golden Gate Bridge District; Roberta Achtenberg, Co-Chair of BALIF; Bill Kraus of Rep. Sala Burton's office, and myself. The answer to



Mayor Dianne Feinstein makes an appearance at Louise Renne's highly successful fundraiser. (Photo: Rink)

search funding needed to find a cure for AIDS can only come from the federal government. The AIDS Lobby will focus solely on AIDS issues. It is now being legally constituted in Washington, D.C., by a group of organizations which includes the National Gay Task Force, Gay Rights National Lobby, Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York (which has provided \$40,000 for initial costs of the national lobby fund), the AIDS/KS Foundation based in San Francisco, the AIDS Project in Los Angeles, and AIDS groups in five other cities. A total of \$115,000 has already been pledged toward a planned annual budget of \$200,000.

The San Francisco Fund is a conduit for funds raised within San Francisco for the National AIDS Lobby. The goal for San Francisco's contribution this year is \$40,000, of which \$14,000 has already been contributed. A major fundraising event is being planned for later this year in the city which will also help meet our

finding the cause and, ultimately, the prevention of AIDS lies in research — and research costs money — millions of dollars. This money has to come from the federal government and the sensible way of getting this funding is to hire professional lobbyists — the people who know who to see and who to get this badly-needed money from in Washington.

I seldom ask for donations in this column, but this is one time I'm asking my readers to send a check — no matter how large or small the amount — to: *The S.F. Fund for an AIDS Lobby*, 2370 Market St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94114.

★ ★ ★

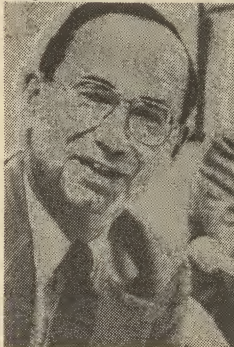
The Toklas Demo Club has rescheduled their 6th Annual Awards Dinner for November 1st at the Mark Hopkins (\$40 "donation" on this one; Steve Walters at 621-4986 for info). • Would-be presidential candidate Jesse Jackson made no friends

(Continued on next page)



Supervisor Louise Renne flanked by some of her Gay supporters at weekend campaign kickoff fundraiser. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from previous page)
last week when he met with Gay Democratic political activists at Sheldon Andelson's restaurant in Los Angeles. Jackson's macho image kept surfacing as he discussed Gay problems with the group and nearly all of them came away from the meeting feeling that they had been insulted by the Black leader (Jackson kept referring to homosexuality as "that sex thing" and kept referring to the Gay lifestyle as "doing one's thing.").



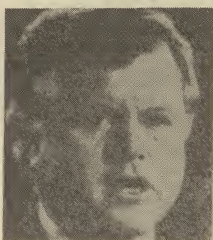
This week the rumor mill has Quentin Kopp plotting to go after Milton Marks' State Senate seat. Marks campaigned for Kopp when he ran for mayor in 1979.

Supervisor Richard Hongisto is holding a fundraiser at Maxwell's Plum Thursday, October 13, 6 to 8 p.m., \$125 per.

In Sacramento, businessman Ross Relles and Councilwoman Anne Rudin will face each other in November in a run-off for mayor of the capital city with Councilwoman Rudin reportedly the favorite of Gay activists there. • In Georgia they are saying that

Kathryn McDonald, widow of the late Rep. Larry McDonald and a candidate to succeed him in a special election, is even more conservative than was the anti-Gay congressman who was aboard the ill-fated Korean airliner that was shot down on August 31. • And pray tell, can ANYONE tell me what the hell Ted Kennedy is doing having dinner at the home of a bigot like Jerry Falwell? • Kennedy fans, meanwhile, are keeping close tabs on the announced presidential candidates such as Mondale and Glenn and a number of liberal types, still holding out hope that Kennedy will somehow be the nominee.

Meanwhile, Nancy Pelosi and National Demo Chair Chuck Manatt are putting heavy pressure on New Hampshire's secretary of state to roll back that state's first-in-the-nation Democratic primary from February 26 of next year to the first Tuesday in



Odd bedfellows: U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy smokes a peace pipe of sorts.

cratic Central Committee.

A growing number of Gay Republicans attending the state GOP convention this past weekend in Long Beach with the Gay Republicans from the Log Cabin Clubs of Long Beach and San Diego holding receptions for the delegates. • Mayor Dianne Feinstein's speech to the National Democratic Women's Forum in Washington last week did exactly opposite as to what the mayor's people had intended; it helped establish her as a serious front-runner if the Dems pick a woman as their vice-presidential nominee. Feinstein went to Washington saying she was not interested in the 2nd spot but came away from the capital being on everyone's list as a potential veep. • Governor Deukmejian signed SB-910, the legislation by David Roberti and Milton Marks that provides \$500,000 to create an advisory committee to provide for research, education, and work-



March in order to comply with the national party's plan of shortening the primary season to three months, but N.H. state officials aren't buying the idea. • Congrats to the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Demo Club — named recently as the Democratic Club of the Year by the Alameda County Demo-

shop grants on AIDS. • The Milk Demo Club and CED will hold a buffet barbecue to benefit Harry Britt's re-election campaign next Friday (Oct. 14; 5:30-7:30; \$25) at 1334 Masonic Ave.

In Sacramento they are talking about a well-known assemblyman who has reportedly called several lobbyists to ask for speaking engagements with honoraria; the greedy politico says he can't make it on his legislative salary alone. • Allen White recuperating from surgery at Ralph K. Davies. • Those attending a recent luncheon of the Hotel and Motel Owners Association in a San Francisco hotel tell me that Sebastian wine was served and Speaker Willie Brown promptly ordered his bottle returned. • S.F. Congressmembers Sala Burton and Barbara Boxer joined the growing list of public officials urging Attorney General William French Smith to prosecute murderer Dan White under the Civil Rights Act. Mayor Feinstein sent a similar letter last week.

This week it's Supervisor Quentin Kopp reportedly holding a meeting with some of his longtime financial backers regarding a possible race against Senator Milton Marks next year. Then again, this could be Quentin crying wolf once more (no one plays the political guessing game better).

W. Friday



Bay Area Reporter's Allen White on telling friends he was preparing to go to the hospital for a week of cosmetic surgery. They gave him a few suggestions on additional work. (Photo: Rink)

Portland Event

The Right to Privacy, PAC, has announced that Midge Costanza, Presidential Assistant during the Carter administration, will deliver the keynote address at the 1983 Lucille Hart Dinner. The "Lucy" Dinner, to be held at the Benson Hotel, Portland, is the major fundraising event of the RTP, PAC. Hailed as the "Event of the year" in the recent *Cascade Voice* Newsmakers Awards, the 1982 dinner raised \$17,000 and resulted in significant contributions in electoral races in Oregon of importance to Gays and Lesbians.

Midge Costanza is best remembered for the active role she played in developing lines of communication between the Gay community and the White House. The subsequent Dialogue not only added signifi-

cance to the issues of Gays and Lesbians, but this expanded role in the political arena led to several major changes in the enforcement of Federal laws.

Costanza will be joined on the stage by Jean O'Leary, Executive Director of National Gay Rights Advocates

Doric Wilson, playwright, Stonewall veteran, sometimes called the "father of Gay theater," will make his first public appearance since his return to the northwest after 25 years in New York. Wilson's plays, *A Perfect Relationship* and *Street Theater* recently enjoyed successful runs in Portland.

Capping off an evening of entertainment and politics, the Portland Gay Men's Chorus will demonstrate the talent that has led them to be called the "pride and joy" of the Gay community.

Be a V.I.P.

The fourth annual gala fundraiser for the Golden Gate Business Association Foundation, *Twenty-Two On the Red*, will be Saturday, October 15 at the Gift Center Pavilion. In addition to the lively gaming and big band dancing, the GGBA Philanthropic Committee has planned an exclusive lounge — "22 Club."

The special guests will be treated to a lavish array of hors d'oeuvres and champagne amid potted palms, antiques and the sweeping panorama of the downtown skyline.

In 1983 the GGBA Foundation has awarded grants to many organizations including Baker Places, CUAV, Harvey Milk Film Project, Lilit, Lyon Martin Health Clinic and Operation Concern.

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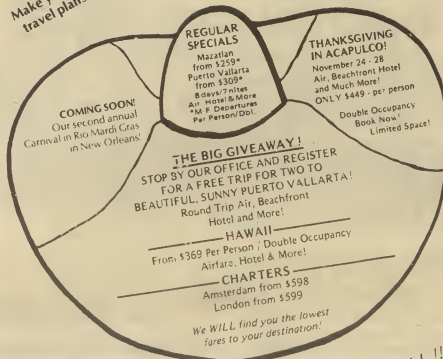
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Atlas S & L's Busy Lesbian

A Visit with Linda Rohde

by Dianne Gregory

Linda Rohde and Jessie Kane seem to be your typical fem-butche couple. Linda is a petite blond with large blue eyes. When I meet her, she is wearing a business suit typical of female financial district aficionados — or of what she is — a loan officer at Atlas Savings and Loan. Jessie is a more muscular short-haired brunette. She is wearing a white t-shirt and the gray trousers and black patent leather shoes of the police academy she is attending. They live in relative opulence in a two-story apartment facing Dolores Park. They've been together for a year and a half. When I arrive at their house, Jessie is just finishing up the dinner dishes.

Linda grew up on a farm near Salem, Oregon where "we rode cows instead of horses, because we didn't have any horses." She came to San Francisco four and a half years ago on her way to Los Angeles, but stuck around to check out a job at the PMI Mortgage Insurance Company. She got the job, but wasn't really committed to staying in the Bay Area until she got hooked up with the Mixed Chorus — which is where she met Jessie.

"It's (the chorus) a very good connection for me," said Rohde. "This city can be very segregated, there are no good mixed bars. I'm used to partying with drag queens and the whole works. I like male energy."

When Linda showed up for the first night of rehearsal as the chorus was just getting started, there were more than 60 men there and only about seven women. Although she said she found that intimidating at first, Linda became business manager for the group, a position she has held for three and a half years. In May she was elected to the board of directors of The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, a national organization of Gay choral groups.

"The chorus is my statement for the community," said Rohde. "I very much believe in our community, but this is the first time I've made any real commitment."

Another commitment Linda has made to the Gay community comes through her job at Atlas. A friend read an article about the Gay savings and loan starting up and told her about it. She was the second person to be hired by the fledgling bank, just three months after the bank's president, in June of 1981. When the bank opened for business that November it had only three employees: Linda; the president, Jerry Flanagan; and a controller. The bank currently has about 40 or 45 employees, and Linda is now the only one of the three still working at the bank.

"I kept calling them up and asking if they were hiring yet," said Rohde. "They probably got tired of hearing it so they hired me. I started out doing everything from receptionist to making bank deposits and opening new accounts. I ended up in the loan department, but when we were getting started, I did everything that came down the tube."

"I'm the only (original employee) left now," Rohde continued. "I don't even know the tellers anymore. It's a totally different atmosphere."

Although Rohde has wide experience in the financial field, she didn't gain the knowledge she has through books. Rohde got most of her financial training through jobs at the First Federal Savings and Loan in Salem as a loan processor, at escrow companies in Oregon and Los Angeles, and at PMI.

"I went one year to Oregon State, but then my parents and I had a parting of the ways," said Rohde. "I wanted to major in psychology and they wanted me to major in business. They said,



Up and coming lesbian activist Linda Rohde. (Photo: Rink)

"We're paying your way," so I quit. And then of course I went into business."

But wasn't hooking up with an untried financial institution risky business?

"We're doing extremely well," said Rohde. "We now have \$50 million in assets, and we started out with \$2 million. It's the only Gay (banking) institution around, and people want to do business with us."

"It's a small savings and loan," Rohde continued. "But it's growing rapidly. We are contemplating new branches in Guerneville and Los Angeles, and we have property that we plan to expand our 18th and Castro branch into."

Is it different to work for a Gay bank than it is to work for a traditional financial institution?

"The work is the same as at any other bank, we have to deal

with the same state and federal regulations and most of the people I deal with are non-Gay," said Rohde. "But you don't have to worry about homophobia at the office, you can be yourself. You don't shove it in people's faces though. You learn not to be a bunch of dancing elephants out there."

"I'll tell you one thing, though," said Rohde. "If two men or two women walk in as a couple we deal with them the same way we deal with non-Gay couples as far as loan criteria. About half of our loans out now are to Gay people and about half to non-Gay people, although we used to have more traditional loans than we do now."

"But that doesn't mean you can walk into Atlas and get a loan just because you're Gay."

"People think because we're a Gay institution that they have a right to a loan regardless of the loan criteria," said Rohde. "If we did that we couldn't exist. People get indignant and frustrated, but the underwriting world dictates what we can allow."

Linda is clearly committed to the Gay community both through her work and recreational activities, and has a lot to offer.

"I don't have time for anything else," said Rohde. "Between Atlas and the chorus it keeps me off the street. I do want to get my pilot's license, though. Jessie gave me flying lessons for my birthday."

One of her other goals is to be vice president of a bank someday, preferably at Atlas. But in the meantime, being in the chorus and on the board of directors of GALA is exciting and rewarding. "I love networking on that level," said Rohde. "I love what I do, I love diversity." ■



Lesbian Linda Rohde at her desk at Atlas S&L. (Photo: Rink)

Gay Grants .00075% of Total



Theatre Rhinoceros receives some funds from the city hotel tax — but always a pittance. (Photo: Rink)

(Continued from page 1)

annual tourist event in San Francisco.

Theatre Rhinoceros jumped in funding from \$3,000 to \$7,500. Golden Gate Performing Arts held steady with \$3,000 to support the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. Frameline, the organization which presents the Lesbian/Gay Film Festival, was added this year with a \$2,500 grant.

Several applicants were denied funding. Most noticeable is the San Francisco Band Foundation which is the umbrella corporation for the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and also the San Francisco Tap Troupe. The reason appears to lie in the presentation made to the hotel tax fund. From Memorial Day through the Fourth of July this year, the band was either traveling, performing, or rehearsing almost every single day. When their proposal was considered, the tax fund people saw a steady debt and not the voluminous amount of public service. Since the proposal, the Band Foundation has chopped their debt in half.

The Castro Street Fair was denied funding because the tax fund does not support merchant fairs.

To get money from the hotel tax fund groups must be non-profit with a 501c3 tax status, be a legal corporation, have been in existence for at least two years,

and meet criteria for funding. These criteria include receiving strong community support both financially and in documented audience response and participation.

Finding groups is not as easy as might appear. The office of the hotel tax fund appears eager to help organizations that want a part of the tax fund pie. The key lies in the group's presentation and the final decision rests with CAO Roger Boas. Most who work with the tax fund are critical of the distribution of the money, yet have shown respect for Roger Boas. The Chief Administrative Officer for the city has acknowledged that he will put money into projects that don't personally appeal to him. Boas was quoted last month in the *Sunday Examiner* as saying, "Like the Gay Freedom Day Parade. I wasn't crazy about that, but I thought it was a legitimate request. A lot of artistic endeavors don't seem to make any sense to me, but there are people who like them."

To assist in the recommendations to Boas, there is a broadly-based Citizens' Advisory Committee appointed by the CAO. It establishes the criteria for funding, reviews applications, and then makes recommendations for the annual arts funding program. Significantly, there are no Gay persons on the advisory committee. As Gay community leaders become more aware of the inner workings of the tax fund, it is anticipated that a strong lobbying effort will commence to place Gay representation on the committee.

A. White



Theatre Rhinoceros members solicit support and funds at Hibernia Beach. (Photo: Rink)

United Way Trustee Urges Gays to Use Donor Option

The only way that contributors to United Way can be sure of giving a fair share to Gay charities is through the Donor Option Plan, according to United Way trustee Arthur Lazere. When Solicited for a pledge at work, a contributor should request a donor option card. Using the card, a donor can choose any tax exempt human care organization in Northern California to be the recipient of the contribution.

In the 1982 United Way campaign, donor option giving to Gay agencies increased by about 31% over the prior year, reflecting the increasing awareness on the part of Lesbian and Gay donors of the needs of chronically underfunded agencies in our community. The principal

beneficiary of the increased giving was the AIDS/KS Foundation which, in its first appearance as a donor option recipient, attracted nearly \$16,000 in contributions. Operation Concern and The Pacific Center, traditionally the major attractions for donor option giving, held their own in 1982 with about \$19,000 and \$18,000 respectively. Other major recipients of donor option funds included Golden Gate Performing Arts, Gay Rights Advocates, Pride Foundation, San Francisco Band Foundation, Human Rights Foundation, and the GGBA Foundation.

This year, in a tightening of existing United Way policies, Golden Gate Performing Arts and the Band Foundation, not

classified as human care agencies, will not be eligible for donor option. (This change should not be interpreted as homophobic. The San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Symphony are no longer eligible either.)

In 1983, for the first time, it is possible for a donor to submit the donor option card in a sealed envelope, assuring the confidentiality of the pledge. According to Anne Wilson of the United Way staff, campaign coordinators at participating companies have been instructed to accept such sealed pledges and turn them over directly to United Way for processing. In this manner, employers will not know which agency an employee has designated. Unfortunately, none of the donor option printed materials yet reflect this new procedure, so that its use will probably be limited this year. Improvements in this procedure will be pressed for by Gay members of the Board of Trustees.

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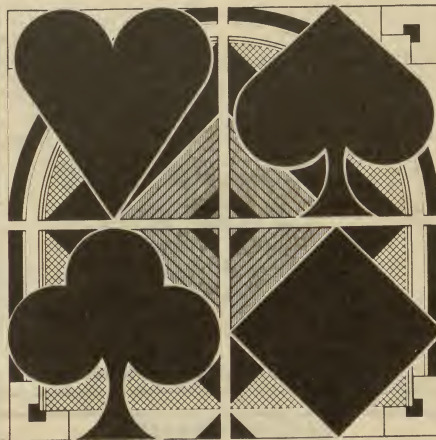
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Tapping the Gay Market

National Companies Reach Out to Gay Consumers

by Mike Hippler

Remember Gay Money? Remember those dollar bills we were encouraged to deface with our Magic Markers and the bold, brassy words "Gay Money?" It seemed a little silly at the time (it still does), but nevertheless I did it sometimes because I knew that the money would soon pass into other, straighter hands than mine, and I enjoyed the prospect of some uptight heterosexual squirming as he handed over a "Gay" dollar bill to pay for — oh, for a *Playboy* magazine or a 49ers ticket. I don't think that the intended purpose of the endeavor had to do with satisfying quite so basic an urge, however. Instead, it was to illustrate the growing financial clout of the Gay community. "If money means power, then we are a force to be reckoned with," it was reasoned. "And it's time to get that message across and to cash in on the benefits of that power."

This matter of Gay Money and economic power came to mind when I began noticing the increasing number of "non-Gay" ads in the *Bay Area Reporter* recently — ads from non-Gay companies usually advertising products or services that are not specifically Gay-oriented. (What products and services are specifically Gay-oriented? Poppers and bathhouses, usually, T-shirts with Gay slogans and restaurants with a Gay clientele. The list goes on and on.) First there was an ad for Pernod. "What is this ad for Pernod doing in the *Bay Area Reporter*?" I wondered when I first saw it. Somehow, it seemed odd that an international company would want to reach out to a Gay market. Gradually, however, I noticed ads for Dos Equis beer, JEFCO Jewelers, and several other national, non-Gay companies. "Perhaps," I thought, "they are getting the message. Perhaps Gay Money and the Gay consumer are no longer being neglected or taken for granted." I determined to get to the bottom of this.

Paul Lorch, the editor of the *Bay Area Reporter*, told me that the man to contact was Jim Mayer, Vice President of Avanti Marketing Services, who was largely responsible for placing the Pernod ad in the paper. Avanti Marketing Services, I soon discovered, is in San Mateo, which is known to me only as the home of *The Advocate*, the best-known and most successful (and nearly the only) national Gay newspaper. Jim Mayer, in fact, is a former employee of the *Advocate*, and when we met at the backyard patio of the Haight Street Deli, he was accompanied by Peter Frisch, the publisher of the *Advocate*. Could it be, then, that the two businesses are inter-related? But of course. As well as publisher of the *Advocate*, Frisch is also the president of Avanti, which, as he explained, is a marketing company which grew out of the *Advocate's* desire to increase its advertising base. "The niche we occupy is that of a middle man functioning in a liaison position between national companies and the Gay market."

We do consultation, product promotion, and research." In other words, Avanti contacts national companies and tries to convince them that to advertise in Gay publications will be beneficial to them.

In order to do this, they have to be able to provide advertisers with concrete information about the market. But, as Frisch explained, "Although we knew a lot about our readers, we knew nothing about the market." Therefore, Avanti contacted several companies to solicit funds for this kind of research. Due to the "growing interest" of these companies in the Gay market, Avanti obtained the necessary funds and in the fall of 1982 commissioned a study of the urban Gay male population. Among other things, Avanti found (and was able to convince the national companies) that eight out of ten Gay men said that they would buy products from a company that supported the Gay community. They also found, to no one's surprise, that many Gay men have a good deal of money to spend — according to the survey, 40% have household incomes of \$30,000 or more — and that, having fewer dependents, they spend it. The companies listened, and the Pernod ad is one result.

This ad campaign was only the first step, however. Because consumers are exposed to over one million messages a day and necessarily reject most of those, states Mayer, companies have developed other ways to reach consumers. "Brand-standing," or the sponsorship of community events by a private business, is one of these. "If an event becomes associated with a product name, it's far more effective than advertising," Mayer explains. Consequently, Avanti encouraged its national advertisers to do more than place ads in Gay publications — they encouraged them to sponsor Gay events as well. "The initial concept was not to get involved unless a Gay organization benefits directly," says Frisch. "There has to be some benefit for everybody concerned."

marily for the Gay male market — HIM vitamins. I remember the first ads for HIM well. "Get HIM," they said. Nothing more. No clue as to who or what HIM was or why we should get him/it. When it was finally revealed that HIM was a vitamin company, I remember feeling puzzled and thinking, "Why has someone gone to the trouble to create Gay vitamins? Sure, I appreciate the effort to meet my particular consumer needs, but isn't this carrying things a little too far?" Fortunately, HIM is based in Sausalito, just a quick zip across the bridge, and I could ask the owner of the company, Denis Kelly, directly.

Kelly is not Gay, although some of his employees are. The company, he points out, is not a Gay company but an integrated one. "We don't like to think in terms of Gay or straight," he says, "for that establishes some kind of unnecessary difference." Then why manufacture Gay vi-

to be associated with AIDS in any way." To underscore this point, Kelly notes that the product's name has been changed to Health Integrity for Men and adds that if there are any such concerns, they haven't affected business at all. The company is turning a profit, although there is still a large debt left over from organizational costs.

Another non-Gay company that advertises in the *B.A.R.* but that is not associated with Avanti is JEFCO, a small jewelry chain with outlets in San Francisco, Reno, and Alaska. The decision to advertise in a Gay paper was made by Irwin Cohn, the company president, who placed the ads because he thought that he was missing out on a sizable and potentially profitable market. "We're not interested in anybody's sexual preference," he told me on the phone. "We're interested in reaching the maximum amount of consumers." The company's advertising agent, Ronald Komperda, puts it bluntly: "It's a market we can't ignore. There is so much money involved that it would be stupid for us to ignore it."

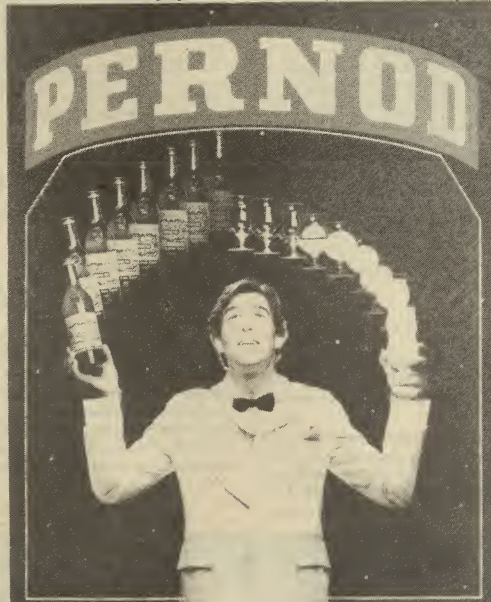
When Cohn first began placing ads for wedding rings in the Gay papers, he called them "Friendship Rings." After receiving a number of complaints from Gay customers, however, he decided to go ahead and call them wedding rings all the same. "Who says Gays can't be married?" he asks. "If they say they are married, that's good enough for me. And if other people object, it's too bad. They don't have to come in." Although it's too soon to know whether or not the ad campaign has been effective, Cohn states that it has been a pleasant experience for him nevertheless. He hastens to add, however, "I'm not championing any cause."

The man just wants to sell rings. Perhaps it sounds selfish, slightly opportunistic. But we all have to make a living somehow, and in the end we all do so by selling something — market surveys, vitamins, rings, newspaper articles. As long as we are selling, oughtn't we to sell to the largest market possible, to the widest variety of consumers? Shouldn't we, like Mr. Cohn, reach out for Gay dollars as well as straight — or, if you prefer, for straight dollars as well as Gay?

Of course. And when we do, odd things can happen. Mr. Cohn sells wedding rings to straight people and to Gay people for both, he believes, fall in love, both have relationships, and both want to celebrate and to formalize those relationships with some kind of outward symbol. He may have believed that all along. He may have come to believe that only as a consequence of his desire to make more money. If it is the latter, then Gay Money has indeed served its purpose and more — by becoming aware of Gay economic power, Mr. Cohn has also discovered notions of social equality.

And wasn't that the point all along? Weren't the people who wrote "Gay Money" on their dollar bills demanding not only, "Pay attention to me! I have needs and wants too," but also, "Pay attention to me! I am no different from you"? In the end, isn't that all we really want — the chance to be treated the same, in the marketplace as well as everywhere else? Ideally, that will eventually happen, and Peter Frisch and Jim Mayer of Avanti will no longer have to ask national corporations to advertise in Gay publications and to support Gay organizations — they will do it anyway. Then our money won't be Gay Money anymore. It will just be money. The term, as well as the need for it, will be obsolete — which is as it should be. ■

One of the first results of this effort was a donation of \$5,000 by the distributors of Absolut vodka to Golden Gate Performing Arts in June 1982, thought to be the first donation of its kind to a Gay organization anywhere. Another result was the creation of the Pernod String Quartet,



which was a group of local musicians recruited by Pernod to give concerts in area bars and to raise money for Gay organizations. (In June 1983 the group raised \$2,300 for the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band.) In addition, Avanti arranged for Perrier to sponsor the FrontRunners' GayRun in San Francisco and for Ramloosa, a Swedish bottled water company, to sponsor the GayRun in New York. Furthermore, it has arranged sponsorships and/or donations for the National Gay Chorus Festival in New York, the L.A. Chorus and Band, the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America, the Gay Festival Games in L.A., and Gay Games II. Why so many musical and sports organizations? "They have a special need for money," says Mayer, "especially since the economy went bad and funding for Gay organizations dried up."

Aren't national companies afraid to advertise in Gay papers and to sponsor Gay groups? Aren't they afraid that if they make a special effort to reach "faggots," there will be a backlash from a sizable segment of the straight population? Yes, Frisch answers, there is a great deal of ignorance and fear. One major clothes manufacturer in particular, who is Gay, will not advertise in Gay papers for fear of alienating the straight people who wear his jeans. "And yet to the best of our knowledge, that hasn't happened," continues Frisch. Instead, companies that reach out to Gay consumers are often quite successful.

One of the national companies which works with Avanti not only advertises in Gay papers and creates Gay ads but also has created a product intended pri-

marily for the Gay male market — HIM vitamins. I remember the first ads for HIM well. "Get HIM," they said. Nothing more. No clue as to who or what HIM was or why we should get him/it. When it was finally revealed that HIM was a vitamin company, I remember feeling puzzled and thinking, "Why has someone gone to the trouble to create Gay vitamins? Sure, I appreciate the effort to meet my particular consumer needs, but isn't this carrying things a little too far?" Fortunately, HIM is based in Sausalito, just a quick zip across the bridge, and I could ask the owner of the company, Denis Kelly, directly.

Unfortunately, Kelly has encountered one unexpected problem in creating a product for Gay consumers, a problem that potential non-Gay advertisers might beware of. He has been considered by some an opportunistic outsider. As health matters have become more and more important in the Gay community and as those matters have become graver and graver, some feel that Kelly has taken advantage of a delicate situation. He has been accused of creating HIM, whose original name was Health and Immunity for Men, solely to make money from the AIDS epidemic. According to Kelly, this is not so. "This product was conceived and produced before there was any health crisis," he states, "even though its appearance on the market coincided with the beginning of the AIDS scare. We have no desire to capitalize on the situation or

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Nez Grilled, Hold the Mayo

NEZ PAS

Ah, yes, dear reader, it's that time again when the tables are turned! I have questions from my last eight interviews, and now I get to answer them. This latest series of "chats" started way back in February — can you remember who the person was?

February 16, 1983: After two years of an established Oakland Float (although you published party events) why are you getting involved so heavily this year?

Nez: To be perfectly honest, no one ever asked me to get involved before. But I did get involved. Too few remained involved and too many others didn't even bother. We did, if you will remember, win "Best Out of Town Award." Not too bad for a group of only seven people, heh? Maybe the reason that too many didn't want any part of the float was because it was an "Oakland" float and not an Oakland "bar" float.

February 26: You are a school teacher, a bar owner, and a journalist, with all the pressures on you: How do you manage to keep your wit and pleasant personality?

Nez: It's obvious! I'm an actress!

March 11: "Had you the chance to go back over the years, would you have a lower relationship or maintain a single life. Any regrets?"

Nez: Obviously, I wouldn't be who, what, and where I am today if I hadn't had my lover. However, I can remember one lover that I had that made me soooooo happy to be single again, that I vowed to myself NEVER to get "hitched" again! Thank goodness that the "self" wasn't listening!

March 4: You are such a vivacious person. How do you do it?

Nez: Oh, Miss Fun, if I only knew what you meant by "it"! I certainly hope you weren't thinking about trimming toe nails or dusting the top of the refrigerator — does ANYBODY dust off the top of the refrigerator? If you were thinking about the "vivacious" person you reason me to be, refer to my answer for February 26.

March 10: We all know sometimes you can be — different! And, sometimes you can actually be human. I love the section of the paper you write. But you mainly cover the other city story than the seven cities that make up Alameda County. What is your main goal as Peter (Nez) as a person? And are you doing and going the way you want?

Nez: Whew! I'll agree with the "different" part, but human — let's not push a good thing too far (unless it's the right thing!)

Thank you for loving the section I write, but did you ever look at the title? It's called OAKLAND with Nez Pas. I realize there are other cities in this fine county; and I realize that there is Gay information available from each and every one of them, but it's physically and financially impossible for me to be everywhere at the same time. I depend heavily upon people getting information to ME. But I should think that if an area or town warrants being covered, and enough people are interested in that coverage, then someone from that area should do the job! Two from Hayward have tried, but never on a regular basis! Deadlines and deadlines, and it has to be there each and every week!

As far as doing and going the way I want, yes and no. If a person ever feels that he or she has reached his or her final goal, it IS the final goal. I still have a lot of growing and knowing to do. By the by, Emperor V, may I count on you for information regarding Fremont?

March 12: Given a chance to speak to ALL of the Heads of Courts of State, at one time (together) what would be your best advice for achieving unity?

Nez: HooBoy! I'm flattered that you feel that I might have some advice to give and that someone would listen and follow it! As far as getting the Heads of Courts of States together, don't try it unless you are planning on paying for the damages out of your own pocket! Advice? To like oneself, to not be jealous within oneself. As for advice . . . well, you only go through this life once, so grab with all the gusto

you can — but share it with a friend, who in turn will share it with a friend, and so on and so on and so on . . . No one has been able to totally explain just why it's necessary to have these "Heads of State." I honestly don't see or understand the need — that is, unless I run and win!

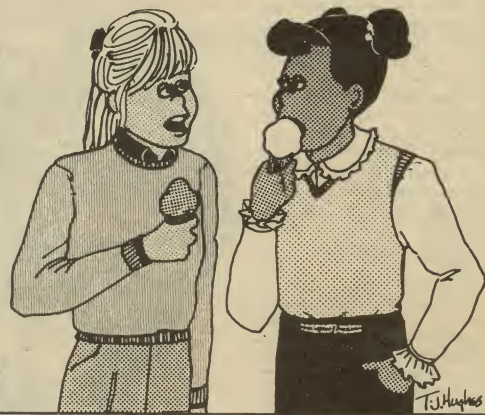
March 18: Why, when you and your lover support Oakland and Hayward, won't you accept a title, when titles are given with Love and Respect?

Nez: The reasons are multi-fold! One is that I have to be objective in my writing/reporting.

(Continued on page 30)



..I don't have a mother. I mean I have a biological one, of course, but I live with my Dad and Stepdad. I won't beat around the bush; they're Gay!



AIDS Hotline

There are over 2,000 AIDS cases world-wide and at least a dozen of them are residents of Santa Clara County. With each news story, people have new questions needing answers. Responding to this need, the AIDS/KS Foundation of Santa Clara County operates a telephone hotline staffed by trained volunteers with professional supervision. From Noon to 9 PM, Monday through Friday, anyone with a concern about AIDS can call and learn what to do to reduce the risk of contracting AIDS, or where to find physicians who are knowledgeable concerning AIDS, or just talk about the problem of coping with the reality of so little being known about so deadly a disease.

The number to call is 298-AIDS.

Diablo Valley Community Center

The Portrayal of Gays in Film, a movie night with popcorn and rap, will fill the October 14 meeting of the Friday Night Rap Support Group at the Diablo Valley Community Center, 1818 Colfax in Concord. The group meets each Friday at 7 PM; a \$1 donation is requested.

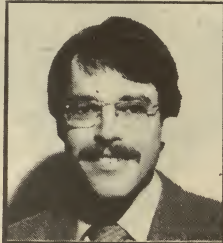
The Center is currently booking two dimensional shows for 1984. Artists, photographers, weavers, etc. should write for details.

The AIDS rap and support for patients and worried well will not meet in October.

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ENTERTAINMENT

avec RONNETTTE

Ronnettite Meets Man-Monster, Says,

"I Made Bigfoot Wear A Rubber"

As most of my readers realize by now, Ronnettite loves to camp.

With summer rapidly moving towards what passes for autumn in San Francisco, I realized I'd better get out into the wilderness before the United States Park Authority closed it.

I have lived in San Francisco for over a decade and I have never yet been to the state of California, which I had heard was just across either bridge and down the road a few miles. I knew there was something beyond Oakland because I'd seen Sierra Club calendars and notebooks just brimming with California poppies and artsy shots of moss on trees in Big Sur. Despite what she did to me, I still more or less love Mother Nature, so armed with a backpack full of manuscript paper (I am presently hoping to emulate the success of Clark Henley's *Butch Manual* with my own little guidebook to masculinity entitled *Je Suis Butch*) and many rolls of quarters (just in case some smart entrepreneur had opened Yosemite Peeps), I went to the freeway entrance at Laguna and Fell and cast my thumb and my fate to the wind.

It must be my looks, because a mere two hours and 400 cars later an erstwhile Samaritan (well, he looked gentle to me) stopped, a burly blond with a handsome face and the tattoo "Death Before Dishonor" discernible on the golden hair of his driving arm. "Where you headed?" he shouted.

"California," I said enthusiastically.

"I can get you as far as Walnut Creek."

"Is that California?"

"It's on the way."

Thus assured, I jumped in the car. My blond vehicular savior stared intently at the road. So did I as I wondered if the politics of hutchhiking demanded small talk or silence. What to say: Have you ever been divorced? Have you ever killed someone? Would you really die before dishonoring — who? God? Country? Your wardrobe? Have you now or have you ever been a member of the upper class?

"Will you stick your finger up my ass?" he said in a totally inflectionless voice.

I was stunned. "Only with purchases of \$500 or more." Actually I didn't say that, I didn't say anything for a while, though his was a question that obviously required a simple yes or no response. "Haven't I seen you deliver beer to the Midnight Sun?" I finally mustered. If he had looked a little less straight perhaps my answer would have been a little more straight. As it was, I didn't know if a "Yes" would get me a dick or abducted, and Ronnettite was fully prepared to jump from the speeding car rather than be a victim of malignant homophobia. Death before dishonor — you know what I mean?

"I don't deliver beer and I'm not gay," my driver said. (Isn't that a line from a George Hamilton movie?) "I just like to jerk off with somebody's finger up my ass." Were we talking about sex? He might have been bemoaning his wife's indifferent cooking or the cost of the children's orthodonty. I cannot have sex without love, but what this gentleman (we never did get around to formal introductions, so let us call him Butch) proffered was only barely sex, so since he was handsome, I assented.

Whatever Butch's profession was, it afforded him a two-car garage and a home in warm Walnut Creek cozily covered with the comforts and trophies of family, none of which I was in-

vited to enjoy or peruse. Butch led me upstairs without glancing left or right. We entered a small room furnished with a bed, a night table, and a phone. He did not say, "Make yourself comfortable," he simply took off his shoes and pants, opened a drawer full of pornographic magazines and newspapers, lay on the bed and began masturbating. There was something shocking about this abrupt coincidence of the commonplace and the erotic, and I cannot say I was not excited watching his member thickly declare itself. He tossed a few magazines in my direction until he stopped at an item called "She-Males in Bondage." "I like real women," he said as he grasped his rod, "not those butched-up feminist dykes who wear strap-on dildoes. Stick your finger up my ass."

Is this California? I asked myself, finger impaled.

Butch's face was hidden by the magazine cover, your basic theatrical S&M orgy with lots of men and women, all of whom had penises. Butch had my right and I am not very good with my left, so I browsed through a few newspapers, checking the Personals to see if Butch had advertised for fingers. Instead, *chere* reader, I found an ad that gave me an instant hard-on: "Millionaire, 45, seeks same." Are you getting an erection? Is the nature of true love revealed to you in a flash as it was to Ron-

(which I could not) and walked toward what I hoped would be someplace secluded and bucolic enough for me to safely lay my sleeping bag down since night was drawing etc. etc. I sang Monteverdi to cheer myself:

*Chiove d'oro, bel tesoro,
Tu mi leggi in mille modi,
Se t'annodi, se ti snodi.*



Then, as I sang "Discoprite, mi ferite" there appeared the creek with the walnut trees. Shaded, green, and warm, Susannah could have bathed here without the eyes of enraged evil elders, then eaten nuts with invisible nymphs. I listened to the music of the water and thought about Butch's dick since I had been taught to concentrate on people's good points. Falling asleep, I thought I heard the sound of the faries. Fuck you, Butch, I said to the rising moon.

The tinkling sound of water splashing awoke me from my dreamless sleeping. In the creek I saw someone bathing — not bathing — frolicking. Even at a distance I could see this was no ordinary mortal but

a giant with a luxurious mane of hair. I crept toward the water watching with jolted surprise as the man quit the creek, leaned with both palms against a walnut tree and shook out his wet body like a dog. He was covered with hair! The water flew off him like slivered mercury in the silver moonlight. He was beautiful. My eyes found his crotch.

And locked there. I had never seen anything like it, not in the flesh, not since Bill Harrison stepped out of the shower in Wakefield Poole's Bijou had I encountered or conceived of a member so monstrous. Amazed, I watched as my California Caliban retrieved a small Vuitton travel bag, removed a brush and mirror, and attacked his furry face, arms, and chest with pleasure and vigor.

I wiggled to the water for a better look. He was enormous, at least seven feet tall. His hands were handsome and huge, his feet mammoth. The adage I learned from Betsy Green rang in my mind — big hands big feet, big meat. Big meat, big feet . . . Oh my God, thought this star-struck reporter. I am facing Big Foot himself!!

I approached even more cautiously, close enough to hear him. "Sixty-six, sixty-seven, sixty-eight . . ." I heard him count as he combed. Then, to my wonderment, the man-monster dropped his mirror and grabbed his member.

Not even fear could stop the entranced Ronnettite. The terror I felt was mixed with — could I call it affection, love? I don't know, I just knew there was something about him . . . I couldn't take my eyes off him.

I stood before the masturbating behemoth, my person and my soul uncovered. His eyes opened from some field of fantasy. I froze. Would my delight be startled? Would he run away? Did I have a chance?

He stirred only slightly. I saw a smile form beneath the bush of hair around his mouth. His voice was deep and gentle. "Would you stick your finger up my ass?"

Big Foot was so different from Butch. Gentle, loving, he caressed me as I fit myself to his cuddly, gargantuan frame. "Can I fuck you?" he whispered into my

(Continued on page 24)

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Comedy and the Unforgivable Sin

The Mormon religion has a special Hell reserved only for Mormons. It's called Outer Darkness and there's no worse place. If you're a Gay Mormon, and don't completely renounce homosexuality, Outer Darkness is where you're going.

Emmett Foster is a Gay Mormon — or rather, he's Gay and was a Mormon. He does not foresee a marked stall waiting for him in Outer Darkness, or even the near outskirts of darkness. Instead, he's illuminating the Mormon Church, its beliefs, his coming out process, and his family with an acclaimed comedy/monologue he wrote and performs. He'll present Emmett: A One Mormon Show at the New Performance Gallery next Wednesday through Saturday, with a Sunday benefit for the Shanti Project.

"My mother warned me about homosexuality," Foster told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "She said, 'Don't you know those people are pansies? They'll try to take you to Hollywood and try to dance with you and then do more with you.'"

"But when I told her I was Gay, her only reply was a quiet, 'You never were heavily bearded.'"

"To leave the Mormon Church is heavier than leaving the Christian Church. It's deserting family, and the family bond is the center of the Mor-

mon Church. But I was forced to leave the church when I faced my homosexuality. The repentance asked was driving me out of my mind. I got to a point when I stopped asking forgiveness for my 'sin' and started asking for signs that I shouldn't leave the Church!"



Serious Comedy. Emmett Foster, presenting *Emmett: A One Mormon Show*. (Photo: M. Swope)

Foster's show is his way of explaining a Mormon's viewpoint, expiate his "sin," and maintain his ties with family and tradition. He portrays the female members of his family — his sister, his mother, and grandmother — in a fashion that drew special praise from New York critics. Edmund White called Foster "the Ruth Draper of today." In between the women, Foster portrays himself.

"I don't want people to be

misled — this is not a stand-up comic routine. I start by explaining my Mormon background, and work through my coming out. I treat homosexuality explicitly in my monologue, while the other characters reveal their own feelings and lives.

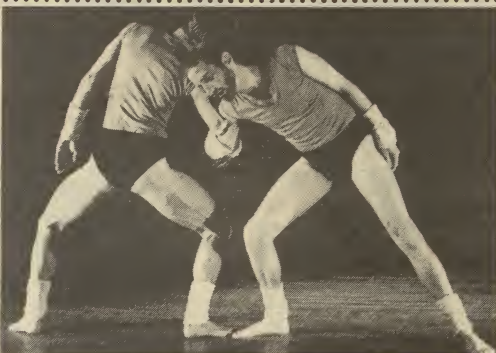
"I'm an actor, basically. This show evolved from a comedy writing class in which I was writing different characters. I couldn't write funny like the stand-up comics in the class, so my teacher advised I write about bizarre things. That resulted in pieces about my mother, the Church, and coming out.

"I was hesitant, but the class found it funny. It's so far out that people don't realize it's true — but that's the point. It is true.

"I was terrified immediately before performing it in New York. There I was, coming out on a stage in a nightclub with Joseph Papp in the audience!"

Papp pounced and presented Foster's show at the N.Y. Shakespeare Festival, where it was held over. "Though the social comment is biting and the laughs many," quoted the *N.Y. Native*, Foster's character acting lets "the women emerge as sympathetic and lovable" while he prods the loopholes of a religion whose idiosyncracies are All-American.

Emmett: A One Mormon Show will be performed at 8:30 PM October 12 through 15 at the New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th Street (between S. Van Ness and Folsom). A special performance at 8:30 PM on October 16 will benefit the Shanti Project; tickets are \$20 this performance only. Info: 863-9834.



Together Again, Separately! Although Gary Palmer and Christopher Beck (r.) once danced together, their namesake companies will divide an evening on October 6 and then alternate weekends during October. (Savage Photography)

munity.

"My second new piece is unnamed at the moment. It's very dark, a challenge to us and the audience to recognize within ourselves the potential to be both executioner and victim. When we recognize our inner struggles we will be able to refrain from enacting them.

"My work is about taking risks, showing emotions that aren't usually shown on dance stages, only in theatres. The essential role of art is to challenge and provoke. I don't try to be entertaining, but to be moving, expansive, do something on the inside. My audiences aren't

always comfortable, but I don't want them to be passive. I'm more interested in affecting people emotionally than I am with impressing them with my choreographic skills or my ability to move bodies in space."

The Opening Night Joint Performance is October 6; tickets are \$25. Reservations: 861-5059.

Christopher Beck and Company Dance Theatre will perform again October 7-9 and 20-23. Gary Palmer's company will perform October 13-16. Single tickets are \$6, but a ticket to both companies is only \$10. At Conterspace in Project Artaud, 2840 Mariposa (one block south of 17th Street at Alabama).

There Goes The Neighborhood

Peter Hartman's mischievous ambition to bring culture to 6th Street reaches an end this month, with the closing of the 544 Natoma Theatre Gallery. Hartman was the founder and director of the ambitious eclectic performance space/art gallery.

A final event is scheduled for tonight, October 6, from sunset until dawn: The End of 544 Natoma. There'll be dramatic moments, memories, dance,

music, an art auction and more. Donations, which will help defray the considerable cost of closure, are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

Ecstasy on Market Street

James Broughton will read from his work and sign copies of his new book, *Ecstasies*, on Saturday, October 8th, 1 to 3 PM at the Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market Street, San Francisco.



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STAGE

South Africa is Everywhere

by John F. Karr

The hopeless situation of Boesman and Lena — jobless, poor, their tin and cardboard hovel knocked down by the power of prejudice — sprang from South African realities. "Put your life on your head and walk" is their bleak anthem — whatever they can carry is their world. The prevailing social order places them barely above the tadpoles they dig from the mudflats to earn a living. They live on the mudflats as well, in a setting that recalls Waiting for Godot.

Godot was metaphorical, but this is fact. Boesman and Lena are locked together, and although they break up repeatedly, neither is ever without the other. Another critic said the play was about "intimacy grown stale and rancid" and in the shocking turns of Fugard's tale we witness relationships everywhere — including Gay ones here in San Francisco. Gay people aren't trained to have relationships, and are also told by society that they're worthless. These elements parallel Boesman and Lena exactly, for it's the story of the relationship of two outcasts. Fugard travels well, besides writing poetically, politically, and passionately. Boesman and Lena is about



Shabaka (L) and Camille Howard as Boesman and Lena in Athol Fugard's brilliant play. Although about South Africans, Fugard's people are Everyone and their state Everywhere.

South Africa, it's about people, it's about me and you; it's an ordeal by fire.

The current production is generally excellent — its one flaw cannot damage the power of Fugard's script. Shabaka's Boesman is a fine creation, layers upon layers of life. Camille Howard's Lena undoes some of Shabaka's work. Trained as a dancer, her personal charisma and great beauty are more visible than her acting talents and

she's incapable of being as defeated as Lena is. Howard gives her life's blood to her work, but she's Carmen de Lavallade trying to be Ruby Dee.

The evening ran longer than it should and technical aspects were shaky, but no other playwright today can write like Fugard, and his play is beautiful and highly recommended. ■

Boesman and Lena
People's Theatre Coalition
Through October 16; 776-8999

RONNETTTE

(Continued from page 22)

ear. "I'm a lousy fuck," I admitted a little sadly. "So am I," Big Foot said, and though I rarely go all the way on a first date, I opened my innards to him. I made him wear a rubber since I had just read in *The Star* that he'd been sighted near Hollywood, and I wasn't taking any chances.

"I didn't know you were gay," I said when we were through.

"I'm bi," Big Foot said and clutched me to his hirsute breast. It was like sleeping with Mount Rainier.

We slept together wordlessly next to the running stream. I knew then that I wanted to spend the rest of my life in his arms.

"I just want to be pretty enough to walk down Castro Street," said Bigfoot.

Alvin (his real name is Alvin Metatarsalstein, and he hates the appellation "Big Foot" as discriminating monstrosity) proved himself a sensitive and much-maligned being. "I don't want to be gorgeous," he told me sadly as he showed me the back trails of California. "I just want to be pretty enough to walk down Castro or Polk Street and not have people stare. That's all a person can really ask for." And some people like Alvin don't even get that much. I thought, seeing my looks in a completely new light.

Well, I looked at Alvin's insides, and what I saw was the sweetest creature on the planet. To my utter surprise, Alvin felt the same about me and, with the approval of his parents, we bought a house in Monte Rio from the money we made selling the story of our romance to the *National Enquirer*.

Alvin was prepared to spend a fortune on electrolysis, but I told him I did not want him to change, that I loved him for what he was — a hairy monster. ■

* R. Bluestein

Big Budget and Excess for Angels



Hollywood Horror, the new musical extravaganza from the Angels of Light, was created as popular entertainment to refill the group's coffers. They'd been depleted by the expense of their last show, *Hotel of Follies*. *Hollywood* is not the artistic success *Hotel* was. It's ununified, proceeds through three opening numbers before telling us what it's about, and is as self-indulgent as a... well, as an Angel of Light saying, "Hey, let's put on a show!"

Even so, it does have its moments. The tale is of vaudevillians clawing by fluke or design to stardom in early Hollywood musicals. It gives room for satire and bitchiness, tap-dancing, recreations of musicals — *Inspired Melody*, and the show's highpoint, a fifteen-minute underwater opera, *Seahorse Serenade* (yes, the seahorse is life-size and tap-dances) — and lots of songs.

Janice Sukaitis' script is not as sharp as her acid portrayal of a gossip columnist, which is great fun. Rodney Price — what legs! — dances all over everything, and the ostensibly unstageworthy Jan Mauro knocks everyone flat with her eye of the hurricane calm and torchy belting. Beaver Bauer's drugged-out star was adored by the audience. I think she needs a director; there's a performance under that excess.

The whole thing needs a director, actually. The Angels want us to know their theatre comes from their lifestyle. They call it alternative, a word that remains from free theatre days. With the budget the Angels have, plus a \$6 ticket, they've changed a lot since those days and maybe need to update that description. What was once alternative is now looking amateur.

Hollywood Horror is all flash and dazzle, and Scrumbly Koldewyn comes through with some good songs, but I don't see why this couldn't have been a musical instead of "Hey, kids, let's put on an (expensive) show in the barn!" It's at the Victoria Theatre (552-2098) through October 9. ■

J.F. Karr

Another Stage Review Appears on Page 29

Blackstage: No Gays Allowed

by Steve Warren

*Racism in the Gay community!
Homophobia in the Black community!*

Theatre would seem an ideal forum in which to address this dual problem, but two of the men best situated to do so show little awareness of the issues and less inclination to attack them.

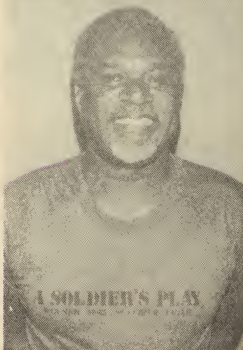
Charles Fuller wrote the 1982 Pulitzer Prize winner *A Soldier's Play*; Douglas Turner Ward directed it for the Negro Ensemble Company, whose production is at Marines Memorial Theatre through October 23.

"I honestly can't remember violence directed at Gay people," Fuller says, "even as a kid growing up in the project — and I lived in North Philadelphia where it was about a hundred percent Black . . . I remember us joining ranks around all kinds of things, but not to beat up Gays."

"I don't remember ever wanting to beat up homosexuals," Ward affirms, harking back to his childhood days in Louisiana: "On the plantation we knew some people were sissies, but we couldn't be bothered with hassling them because the white people were kicking all our asses."

When he moved to New York Ward still perceived a unity among Blacks, Gay and non-Gay. "We knew about Gay bars in the Black community before the community at large acknowledged them. In Harlem there used to be a great ball ('The Beaux Arts,' Fuller supplies) every year with trans — what do you call them? — transvestites, drag queens; and they were Black."

"Shit, it was Black queens who were on Christopher Street (at the Stonewall) that started your whole movement!"



Douglas Turner Ward
(Photo: S. Warren)

Despite equating Gays with drag queens and homophobes with fag-bashers in his arguments, Ward pleads not guilty to stereotyping: "I'm heterosexual but I understand that being homosexual doesn't mean wanting to be a woman . . . I wouldn't hesitate to cast a Gay actor in any kind of role . . . unless maybe it called for him to fuck a woman . . . (or) act with great passion toward her."

Fuller recognizes parallels between internalized homophobia and the kind of self-hatred that infects some Blacks, including one of the main characters in *A Soldier's Play*. The murdered T/Sgt. Waters is shown in flashbacks to have been fascistic in demanding "politically correct" behavior of his men (all Black — the army was still

segregated in 1944) to promote a positive image of their race.

A broad spectrum of ideas is presented by the 12 complex men (9 Black, 3 White) in the play. Fuller says he had to resist pressure from "Waters" types in the Black community who don't want to see disagreement on the stage: "Minorities are never allowed to function as if there were an opposing point of view."

As several Gay playwrights have complained, Fuller gets pressure from his people to tell stories that let them see themselves on stage. "Some people want you to do everything in one play," he laments. "If you tried to paint a canvas that stretched 3,000 miles across the country you'd die before you finished it. You can't expect the same thing in a play."

Nonetheless it would be nice to see a piece of Black theatre that deals with Gay issues, and neither man can think of one that has had a major production.

As co-founder and artistic director of the Negro Ensemble Company, Ward probably sees more Black scripts than anyone. After a few moments' thought he recalls a play he rejected: "The problem was that it was trying to straddle the fence, not confront the issue. I think a writer has to be honest." He compares the would-be playwright in question to some unnamed Whites (e.g., Albee and early Tennessee Williams) who disguised Gay situations by turning a male character into a woman.

More recently, Ward says, he's read a play which "deals directly with a situation of a Black Gay among White Gays." He does not, however, indicate that he intends to produce the play. On the whole, he adds, there seem to be more women playwrights writing about Lesbianism than men writing about the Gay experience.

"There have to be writers somewhere . . . writing about Gay men and women," Fuller interjects. "We (Blacks) do the same things everybody else does."

One thing Ward would not do, he emphasizes, is to stage an unworthy play solely because of its subject matter. "We (the NEC) have never done special pleading plays of any kind — even in the beginning. Someone's always telling me I have to do such-and-such a play because of its message; but I say, 'Fuck it. Is it a good play?'"

The conversation drifts into other areas of Black literature, including the "Harlem Renaissance" writers of the 20's and 30's, many of whom were Gay. Fuller has high praise for Wallace Thurmond's novel on the subject, "Infants of the Spring," which was reissued in 1979. Two major characters, Raymond (Black) and Stephen (White) are "close friends." Today's reader, Fuller says, will know it's about more than friendship, but writers couldn't be openly Gay in 1932 when the book was written.

Perhaps the first Gay novel by a Black author was James Baldwin's "Giovanni's Room." Ward is somewhat critical of the book: "Sometimes Jimmy's perception of his own shit gets in the way." He goes on to accuse Baldwin of believing, "Every time two Gay people fuck — like Hemingway, 'The earth moves.'"

With the upsurge in minority



Playwright Charles Fuller.
(Photo: S. Warren)

theatre, Ward says, "I'm overjoyed for all minorities that today we can put all our shit on the table . . . The great homosexual writers of the future will be even greater. You don't have to make all the same mistakes we (Blacks) have . . ."

When he says that Gays can learn from the Black movement I point out that we've been following it right along. We get down to comparing slogans — "Gay is Good" imitating "Black is Beautiful" — and Ward warns, "Don't say just because people put us down that all of us are always marvelous. Don't keep saying we have to keep making a public relations front to the world."

Debunking another myth Ward claims that as feared as Black men may be, they're truly "never had any power. I try to explain that to the feminists, to tell them we've never even had power over our own households . . . The women have been at least equal in economic power because they could always get maid work, when the men sometimes couldn't find anything."

Summarizing with a grain of truth in his shortsighted analysis Ward says, "I would never equate the deep-seated attitudes of the society as a whole against any minority with what we've been through."



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The Vocal Minority, entertainment specialists of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus, presents *What a Wing It'll Be*, Sunday, October 9, 8 P.M., at the Valencia Rose.

Appearing with the Vocal Minority will be cabaret entertainer, Sean Martinfield.

The upbeat show, a benefit for the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Chorus, features songs done in jazz, choral and pop styles. Tickets are \$4 at the door. ■

Hey, Dancers!

Male dancers are being sought for the winter season of Falcon Dance Theatre. The company has appeared at the Opera House and Davies Hall, and presented *Rites of Spring* in 1982 and 1983. A strong ballet/modern/jazz background is preferred. The focus of an audition will be on personality, partnering and stretch, for a company style that goes beyond masculine and feminine roles. Info: 665-5663. ■

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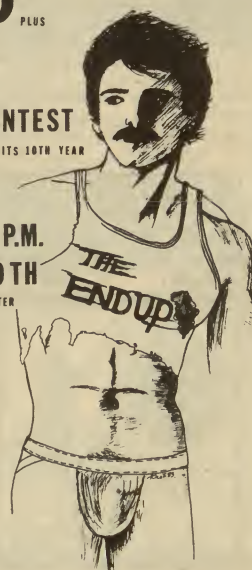
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TALES OF TESSITURA

Double Vision

GEORGE HEYMONT

asting an opera is a bit like baking a soufflé. Perfection is rarely achieved (just as oven temperature, the amount of salt, butter and other ingredients tend to vary in the tiniest amounts). When a good mesh of all factors occurs, the results can be ethereal. On other nights, it can be less than mundane.

When I first started attending operatic performances I was blessed with the opportunity to watch various artists move in and out of roles within a production. Thus, I might have seen five Violettas, three Manons, four Figaros (and God knows how many Countess Cepranos!) in one season. Each artist brought his individual strengths and weaknesses to the role, thus coloring the evening with a slightly different stroke of the vocal paintbrush.

REVOLVING DOORS

This season's production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* was marked by a constant turnover in principals. Although I did not catch Luana de Vol's Ariadne, the other two ladies who sang the role, Rosalind Plowright and Carmen Reppel, scored varying degrees of success. Dennis Bailey and William Johns likewise brought different nuances to the role of Bacchus. The balance shifted noticeably between the casts.

When I first heard Rosalind Plowright in San Diego, it was obvious that she had a major career ahead of her. Her voice, quite simply, is a knockout. A huge sound, blessed with the ability to be shaded, sculpted, and on occasion belted, Plowright's pipes are a force to be reckoned with. Lean and attractive, with a strong sense of dramatic thrust, the soprano knows

how to make the most of her vocal opportunities. Miss Reppel, sadly enough, was quite the opposite: a rather mediocre and bland Ariadne with little distinction to her voice or acting.

In the tenor arena, William Johns was a distinct improvement over Dennis Bailey's pinched, nasal production (which often makes one think of chalk scratching on a blackboard). Mr. Johns has the brute strength needed for some of Bacchus' music, while retaining the ability to delicately shade some pianissimi to the point of modified rapture. Bacchus has never required much in the acting department yet, even there, the Oklahoma-born tenor triumphed over Bailey.

YOUTH WILL BE SERVED

The Ariadne cast was important for more than its leads, however. Singing crucial roles

for the first time in their careers were two outstanding young American artists: Susan Quittmeyer and Kathleen Battle. Ms. Quittmeyer's Composer had the mark of future greatness: lean, ardent and sung with just enough vulnerability in character and voice to make one realize that this was, indeed, a youthful soul. Perhaps more enchanting than some of her elder colleagues who sing the role (Tatiana Troyanos, in particular) Quittmeyer had that special glow which accompanies a young artist singing a big role for the first time on a major stage. Next fall she will sing her first Octavian with the Los Angeles Opera Theatre opposite Winifred Faix-Brown's Marschallin. Both women should be watched for future greatness.

Ms. Battle was triumphant as Zerbinetta, holding the audience in the palm of her hand throughout her long monologue in Act II. An artist with the uncanny ability to sculpt dramatic moments with a clean, yet witty precision, Battle continues to impress local and national audiences as one of the brightest talents to emerge in recent years. Her Zerbinetta, while new, will continue to be a strong role for her in future years. You saw it here first.

One must be careful, however, not to overlook a good man in the crowd. In the small, but delicious role of the Dancing Master, young Frank Kelley made an impressive San Francisco Opera debut. Fresh out of the Merola Program (and with a smile that looks like the Joker in the old Batman comic books) Kelley displayed a strong and promising tenor voice with an ease onstage which is admirable. One wishes him well in the future.

PIT STOPS

While it would be difficult to overpower Plowright or Johns, special praise should be given to Christoph von Dohnanyi, who conducted the opera with a rare restraint. Often holding back sound to avoid drowning out his singers, the conductor's delicate approach to Strauss' score allowed the three spirits of Naiade (Cheryl Parrish), Dryade (Laura Brooks Rice) and Echo (Ruth Ann Swenson) to wrap the audience in soft velvet in their few, but exquisite moments — music which is often trodden upon by conductors as they lunge toward the final apotheosis.

What sets Ariadne auf Naxos apart from most other works this season is its reputation as an ensemble piece. Often looked upon as a chamber opera, and despite the constant turnover in lead roles, this production held its own with admirable strength. Its subtle moments will be treasured for years to come.

FROM FIFTH POSITION

Nouvelle Cuisine Cake

KEITH WHITE

It is hard to determine the extent to which the San Francisco and East Bay ballet audiences are one and the same. I wondered about this as I watched the Oakland Ballet's season premiere performance Friday night, which featured a new production of Ruthanna Boris' *Cakewalk*. *Cakewalk*, a 30-year-old ballet inspired by old minstrel traditions, has been performed many times in San Francisco by the Joffrey Ballet — and I've gathered that the local Joffrey audience has grown somewhat weary of it. But proving its appeal once again, *Cakewalk* was a great success at Zellerbach Hall.

full orchestration, the score sounded overreduced and thin to my ears. And, having seen the Joffrey's performance 25 times or so, I'm somewhat attached to that company's broader characterizations. Boris stated in an interview that the dancers should not "feel pressured to camp it up" in these character parts, that "the humor is built in." To me the roles seemed as underplayed as the score, with the exception of Erin Leedom's "The Wallflower Waltz" and Horstene, Queen of the Swamp Lilies. Oakland already has a hit with *Cakewalk* — the audience loved it. But whether or not it will stand up to repeated view-



Going Gottschalk. Gottschalk's rousing music and a return by choreographer Ruthanna Boris to leaner production values mark the Oakland Ballet's *Cakewalk* revival, an instant hit.

Ms. Boris oversaw the Oakland revival herself and was onstage Friday night for the company bows. One of her goals, apparently, was to revive *Cakewalk* with the same spirit it had when she first choreographed it for New York City Ballet in 1951. If she succeeded, we must assume that the recent Joffrey performances have progressed quite far from the original intention. Oakland Ballet used simple set pieces against a plain black backdrop and used only four musicians — two pianists, a percussionist, and banjo — in the pit. Accustomed as I am to hearing the

ings, only time will tell.

In 1981, Oakland Ballet achieved international recognition with the revival of Bronislava Nijinska's 1923 *Les Noces*, which opened the current program. Set to the Stravinsky cantata for orchestra and voices, the ballet is a stylized wedding celebration, recapturing the stark, communal rituals of old Russian peasant weddings. Like so many ballets created for the Diaghilev Ballet Russe, *Les Noces* at times looks extremely modern, despite its age and ethnic/cultural influences. For energy, union impact, and sheer architecture

(Continued on page 30)



Do You Sing Here Often? The Composer (Susan Quittmeyer) is smitten upon meeting Zerbinetta (Kathleen Battle) in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Both artists sang the roles for their first time in this San Francisco Opera production.

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OCT 12



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OCT 13



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Cruising the Coliseum

JERRY DE GRACIA

Living up to one's reputation, good or bad, is never easy, even for rock star David Bowie. His performance at the Oakland Coliseum on September 17th was almost perfect, lacking only the "like it or leave it" innovativeness that originally brought him notoriety in the rock arena.

Bowie sailed through his repertoire, from "Rebel, Rebel" to "Let's Dance", without a snarl, looking like a camera-ready advertisement for *Gentlemen's Quarterly*.

The new Bowie image, a la tailored, white suit crowned by his trendy but conservative golden locks, has been splashed across every video screen in the country with the success of his latest album *Let's Dance*. The fashion model pose Bowie has adapted belies the glitter

drag era which he once ruled as Master of Ballsiness.

Bowie has successfully ridden the musical evolution of the 1980's. His last album covered all bases of current pop music trends in a technically perfect, but emotionless collection. Like his Saturday night performance, it's a prime example of current rock trends. Unfortunately, the concert and the album provide a style that can be easily grasped and digested, but difficult to ponder since his trendy formula goes against the tone he set earlier in his career when he pushed rock music in to uncharted territory.

Bowie's performance, which could be described as larger than life, was skillfully honed and his movements evoked both sexuality and high-tech asexuality at the same time. The



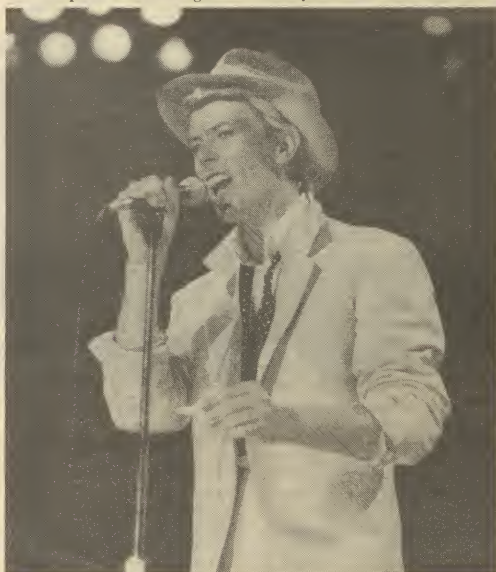
He Said It in *Rolling Stone*. "I've never been Gay." He sure marketed the look, though.

show was cut-and-dry professionalism at its finest and it was obvious that no one involved with it made any mistakes. While such performances are commendable, the down-to-the-last-detail work prohibits spontaneity and bars any "human touch" aspect.

The show was a collection of David Bowie's greatest hits, as slick as the Motown 25th Anniversary Special, and the end result was that all songs sounded as if they had been written and recorded earlier this year. Because there was a 1980's flavor to all the music one was left wondering just "Where are all the spiders from mars?"

Another unfortunate aspect of the new Bowie was the fact that the glitter queen androgyny of his earlier career, which attracted Gays, many of whom could be seen cruising the Coliseum, seems to have been hung back in the closet and replaced with a perfect clone. This one has a new hairdresser and make-up artist and only wears designer suits.

Bowie is an unquestionable super-talent and his ability to match the best of today's younger rock artists is admirable. Obviously though, Mr. Bowie will not be the moving force behind the inevitable new directions of rock music, a position he once ruled. But as long as he practices his art, he also won't be far behind.



Blonde Sinatra. Once into the Glitter look, then into a Spider from Mars look. Mr. Bowie currently seems to be going through a Sinatra update.

Rhino Acting Class

Theatre Rhinoceros announces an acting class in six sessions. The class will be focusing on script interpretation and the development of acting skills. Each student will develop a finished audition piece by extensive work with a monologue. Students will learn physical and vocal warm-ups and participate in solo and group improvisations.

Six 2 1/2 hour classes begin Saturday, October 15 through November 19, from 11 AM - 1:30 PM.

Instructing the course will be Chuck Solomon, who was trained at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. He was a founding member of the Gay Theatre Collective, which produced *Contents Under Pressure* and *Crimes Against Nature*. Chuck has acted in and directed many Bay Area productions and was a recent recipient of a Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle Award for his direction of *Dressing, Undressing and Talking On the Phone and Delivery*, produced by Theatre Rhinoceros.

The fee for the course is \$75 (20% discount for Theatre Rhinoceros subscribers and members). To enroll, call 552-4100 before October 15.

Kids Selling It

The network Coffeehouse (1329 7th Avenue) presents "Youth and Prostitution in San Francisco" at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, October 5. It's a lively, serious look at the problems of youth on the street. The evening will include a dramatic film shot in San Francisco on teenage prostitution and drug dependence

Family Life

Dr. Jane Oldden, psychiatrist in private practice in San Francisco and former consultant to the National Institute of Mental Health, will lead a discussion of the opportunities for homosexual persons who honestly share their lives with their families on October 12.

Dr. Oldden has worked exten-

and a discussion by members of Polk Street Town Hall of what can be done to help the high-risk youth who are largely now abandoned by family, church, and city.

It will be led by Rich Dausman, the Presbyterians for Lesbian/Gay Concerns' liaison to Polk Street Town Hall. Admission by donation. Info: 989-6097

sively with Lesbians and Gay men and will bring her years of experience to a talk which goes beyond the initial "coming out" to include the ongoing considerations that lead to warmer relationships in families with Lesbian/Gay members.

The discussion will begin at 7:30 PM at The Network Coffeehouse, 1329 Seventh Avenue, San Francisco. Admission is by donation.

Out of Order

Robert Epstein, director-producer of the documentary film entitled *Out of Order: The Times of Harvey Milk*, will show and discuss his work-in-progress at the October 9 meeting of the Gay Academic Union (Bay Area). When completed the film will be shown on National Public Television and in theatres.

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Berlin Alexanderplatz

Fassbinder Spreads Out

If there were any doubts about Rainer Werner Fassbinder's skill as a filmmaker (and *Querelle* certainly should have raised some), *Berlin Alexanderplatz* lays them to rest along with the director. He made this 15½-hour epic in 1980 for German television, where quality-wise it must have been the equivalent of *Brideshead Revisited* in the English-speaking world.

Having said all that, I must caution that art and entertainment don't always go hand in hand. What amuses one person may bore another.

The first three segments (of 13 plus an epilogue) were previewed for the press; and while the series eventually gathered momentum

like the train behind the opening credits, I was sufficiently bored that I have no intention of going to the Castro to see the rest, despite its unmistakable artistic merit. (A lot of people felt the same way about *Brideshead*, the only miniseries I've taken the trouble to watch a considerable portion of.)

The miniseries form allows for leisurely adaptations of lengthy novels, which is fine if the novels interest you. But we're talking four times the length of *Gone*

with the Wind here, and I'm not that interested in author Alfred Doebelin's view of Germany between the World Wars.

As Fassbinder represented post-war Germany by a desirable woman in *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, so here he shows the country before the war as a dumpy, middle-aged, downtrodden and often impotent man.

Franz Biberkopf (Gunter Lamprecht) spent four years in prison for beating his mistress to death. (He's always rough with his women.) In the depressed economy of the late 20's it's not easy to earn an honest living. He finds a new mistress, Lina (Elisabeth Trissenaar), and is determined not to let her whore for him, even though pimping used to be one of his specialties.

In one wonderful scene that illustrates the desperation of the times, Lina is exultant when Franz gets a job selling shoelaces door to door.

For a man who loved men Fassbinder has given us damned

few to admire in his films, instead providing meaty roles for such actresses as Hanna Schygulla (Maria Braun and 15 other films) and Barbara Sukowa (Lola), who come to the fore in later Berlin episodes; and Trissenaar (*The Stationmaster's Wife*), who reminds me here of Kim Novak.

Monotony is not a problem in *Berlin Alexanderplatz*. Episode 1 alternates between long, boring dialogues and kinky sex scenes; the second evolves into a political debate as Nazism rears its head; the third is a darkly rollicking, almost self-contained vignette that ends with Franz dropping out of sight.

Scene after scene confirms Fassbinder as a consummate filmmaker. If you don't share my attention span problem, this one deserves your attention. I may put it on my Ten Best list without even seeing the rest of it.

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S. Warren

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What's A Woman To Do? Elisabeth Trissenaar latches onto Gunter Lamprecht (L.), a dumpy, middle-aged symbol for Germany between the wars, in *Berlin Alexanderplatz*.

Cross Creek

A Writer's Cramps

Cross Creek is a movie a lot of people have been waiting for, and I wouldn't begrudge them it for the world. Sadly, it seems to cater to its intended viewers as shrewdly and calculatingly as the less worthy teenploitation flicks do to theirs.

If there is such a thing as a "family audience" it should flock like so many sheep to this innocuous biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. She wrote *The Yearling* and other tales which, like *Cross Creek*, combine an intensely literary quality with folksy charm.

"I was desperate to express myself," Marjorie says; so she leaves her husband in New York in 1928 to start an independent life in a falling-down central Florida cabin by a dying orange grove.

While insisting she wants to do everything herself, she attracts a cadre of relentlessly colorful characters who do everything but the writing — and they eventually inspire that. She also attracts Peter Coyote, the local hotelier who wants to marry her but has to wait until she proves to herself that she doesn't need him.

There's no violence except when neighbor Marsh Turner (Rip Torn) gets drunk and smashes any scenery he hasn't chewed yet, and no sex until the lights go out.

But there are distinct Lesbian undertones in two of Marjorie's relationships. (A strong woman in those days would have been suspect anyway.) Geechee (Alfre Woodard), applying for maid work, promises, "I don't do no co'tin'. I don't want no man around me." Later Geechee chooses to stay with Marjorie instead of following a worthless man.

(Continued on next page)



BWWT — Devoted maid Alfre Woodard inspires Mary Steenburgen's writing, and learns in return to live without men; but they're not Lesbians — unless you look between the lines of *Cross Creek*.

FILM CLIPS

REVIEWS BY MICHAEL LASKY AND STEVE WARREN

Beyond the Limit

Low Gere

Richard Gere, who only leaves his clothes on for a scene when it's tasteful and essential to the plot, bares his buns again (no frontal shots this time) in

Beyond the Limit; and that's just one of the ways the film is visually effective (or would be, if the Royal's projectionist could keep it in focus).

The problems are all on the soundtrack (also out of focus), which makes polyglotony a deadly sin. Actually, for a film set in Argentina it has very little

non-English or even accented dialogue, other than Michael Caine speaking his native tongue. Things reach the height of absurdity when gringo Gere, feigning an English accent on about every fifth line, talks with British Bob Hoskins who's playing an Argentine police chief. What makes matters worse is that much of the dialogue is unintentionally laughable.

Gere has an affair with Caine's wife ("It's all right; your husband is a friend of mine.") while trying to ignore the revolutionary politics of his Paraguayan

friends ("South America is my country").

Based on Graham Greene's *The Honorary Consul* (the new, meaningless title obviously scored higher in market research), *Beyond the Limit* is a throwback to the days before the movies started dealing with real situations in Latin America (*Missing*; *Under Fire*); but the people who developed the formulae were better at applying them.

(Royal, Plaza) S. Warren

Brainstorm

Head Ache

Brainstorm elaborates on the oft-used horror movie plot of thought transference. The nefarious Government is out to get a device created by corporation scientists Louise Fletcher and Christopher Walken which can transfer one person's thoughts and feelings to other people.

Douglas Trumbull, who was the special effects man extraordinaire for *Close Encounters*, among other films, proves he can't affect anything particularly special in this, his first directorial effort. He treats the actors as mechanically as his beloved computer images, which keeps us totally uninvolved. Even a potentially suspenseful chase sequence is merely a mishmash of out

of place "I Love Lucy" style shenanigans and Hardy Boys pubescent intrigue.

Natalie Wood — in her last role — plays the estranged wife of Walken, using his brainscanner to become close to him once again, then helping him foil the dastardly Government plot. Alas, just as she is wooden in her part, Christopher Walken through his Wonderful Louise Fletcher dies of a heart attack midway through the film, and Cliff Robertson is sabotaged in his emoting as well by the silly, designed-for-effects-only script.

If Trumbull could have put that thought-reading headset on his audience he would have found that *Brainstorm*'s dizzying effects and deafening 6-track sound don't give us satisfaction, only a headache.

(Regency 1) M. Lasky

One Night Stands

Films of Gay interest this coming week.

by Michael Benzry

Thursday-Friday, October 6-7: (Strand) *Caligula* is the most expensive piece of trash ever made.

Monday, October 10: (Strand) *Al Parker and Will Seagers in Wanted*, with Casey Donovan in Wakefield Poole's *Hot Shots*. Yum, yum.

Wednesday, October 12: (Castro) Pasolini as Giotto in his *Decameron*. In Satyricon, two friends share their adventures, loves, and bodies in a vision of ancient Rome created by Fellini.

(Strand) *You Are Not Alone* is a must-see film. It is the story of two young Danish boys in love, and reveals that most egalitarian society, Denmark, where the age of consent for everything is 15. With *The Best Way*, a search for sexual identity.

Thursday, October 13: (Castro) Woody Allen divorces his Lesbian wife and robs the cradle in Manhattan, his black and white masterpiece. With *Annie Hall*.

(Strand) That plump Gay male actress Divine in early John Waters: *Mondo Trasho*, *Multiple Maniacs*, and *The Diane Linkletter Story*. Bad taste reaches new dimensions and was never so much fun.



Take My Wife, Please! Michael Caine offers Richard Gere his hospitality, unaware that Gere's already helped himself to Mrs. Caine (Elpidia Carrillo) in *Beyond the Limit*.

(Continued from previous page)

Marjorie is fascinated with Marsh's adolescent daughter Ellie (Dana Hill): "She stood on the threshold of womanhood, clinging to her fawn as if he were the last of her youthful dreams." The woman-loves-girl-loves-deer theme continues throughout, with neither obsession physically consummated and Marjorie's maintained as intellectual curiosity.

Steenburgen is okay in a role that must have promised more than it delivers, and she gets to model the great period costumes of Joe I. Tompkins.

Cross Creek is nearly perfect in its simple way, but what flaws there are should never have gotten past veteran director Martin Ritt. So few films like this are attempted these days that I wish the results had been better. ■

(Regency 2) S. Warren

STAGE

The Pain of Icy Fingers

by Bernard Spunberg

Who is that figure wrapped in bloody rags and bandages? And what's that dull roar that fades and returns, terrifying everyone? The *Empire Builders*, written by French Absurdist Boris Vian in 1957 and currently presented by San Francisco Repertory in a scary production directed by Robert Jordan, gives no definite answers. The action follows a man, his wife, their daughter, and servant as they squeeze themselves into increasingly remote and uncomfortable quarters in their attempt to escape the noise.

Wherever the quartet hide, however, they find *Schmurz* — German for pain — a bloody, bandaged figure, awaiting for them. They punch, kick, slap, choke, and beat it with a riding crop, but it neither leaves nor fights back. By the end, the action narrows into a tight, dark cul-de-sac from which the only exit is death.

Leo Downey is a disgustingly slimy Father, his condescending attitude and macho posing finally crumbling to reveal cowardice. *Schmurz* is mimed by Dan Quinn, and his slow writhing is

an hypnotic dance of pain and anguish.

The other actors are adequate, but there is more in the script than they deliver. Their work, however, is overshadowed by unexpectedly high production values. Pamela Mason-Brune's characterful costumes harmonize beautifully, and her design for *Schmurz* is stone cold death warmed over. Paul Gilger's distorted perspectives are traditionally Expressionistic, but his tilting walls and doors are no less eerie and disquieting for their familiarity. Sound design by Stereopolis is chilling — though its loudest moments could be louder — and decadent bourgeois background Muzak helps to generate an anxious mood.

The *Empire Builders* is thematically vague, but it is not coy; it does not contradict itself. It's a little like a Hitchcock thriller — you know something terrible is about to happen and you can't bear to watch, but you can't bear not to watch, either. The drama grips with icy fingers, and each viewer is forced to draw his own conclusions. ■

Empire Builders
SF Repertory
Through Oct. 30; 864-3305



Who's Got the Pain While They Do the Mambo? The *Empire Builders*, now playing at the S.F. Rep, features (l. to r.) Leo Downey as Father, Dan Quinn as the *Schmurz*, and Gretchen Grant as Mother.



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A Saturday Farewell Concert will benefit Casselberry and DuPree's world tour.

Spreading Their Word and Music

J. Casselberry and Jaque DuPree have performed benefits for many good causes but this Saturday's going away concert will benefit themselves — helping to kick off their world tour.

Saturday, October 8, at Everybody's Creative Arts Center/Jenny Lind Hall, 2267 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley, Casselberry and DuPree will perform two going away shows at 8:30 and 10:30 PM; \$7.

It will be their last Bay Area performance in what could be a year, as the duo has dates lined

up from New York to Japan. They'll be spreading their special blend of Lesbian/Black musical experience that has inspired this community. Their music not only makes a demand for freedom, growing out of the ache without it, but offers some of the harmonies of what such a demand could mean."

They'll be backed up at their Farewell by their Urban Gorilla Band, featuring Annette A. Aguilar, percussion; Mimi Fox, guitar; Bonnie Johnson, drums; Jessie Ortiz, keyboards; and Debbie Saunders, bass, plus some very loving friends. ■

NEZ PAS

(Continued from page 21)

Another: What does a title really mean? Is it something to be worn on the lapel at all times, demanding kowtowing? Is it something that one has earned? Is it something to be accepted and then tossed in the bottom drawer and forgotten until the time comes to turn it in? Is it a badge of reward for services rendered or services hopefully to be rendered? Last, to me, a title means that someone is a little bit above and better than one who has no title. I couldn't live up to that stigmatism. I would rather have an honest "Up Yours!" when sharing a drink, than all the titles in the world. Matter of fact, I'd rather have the drink!

August 31: I wish Gay people would be more generous at times of need. Will it ever happen?

Nez: I doubt it!

★ ★ ★
(A Holy Nose)

I'm still waiting for the fire and brimstone! Yours truly actually went into a church to witness and SHARE the ordination of the Most Reverend Rick Weatherly to the New Life Metropolitan Community Church! It was a very spiritual, relaxing and loving afternoon, to say the least! And, I thank Rick for the invitation to me and my spouse to be able to share in this very important occasion. Rick, you had the calling; you answered it; now, it's up to you to do something with it. I know in my heart that you not only can, but will! As you so aptly put it, "... so help me God. So, HELP me God!" In my vernacular, Rick, you and your lover Scott are nice people!

The help I need most urgently is help in admitting that I need HELP! Love, ■

Nez

FIFTH POSITION

(Continued from page 26)

tectural genius, it is a masterpiece. And in spite of several versions of Les Noces by other choreographers, it is rather difficult to see the original today. They have it in Oakland.

The centerpiece of the program was company director Ronn Guidi's Sibelius, to Sibelius' Symphony #5 in E-Flat Major. A large-scale work danced in all white unitards, Sibelius is as complex as its score, yet somehow seemed to possess its own energy apart from the score. The dancing is frankly difficult, and difficult to see clearly due to the effect of white on white — the soloists were hardly discernible against the corps; the dancing and the music seemed less than complementary on Friday night. Guidi composed a very interesting double pas de deux for a male-male couple and a male-female couple, performing identical steps and partnering, side by side. The ballet is too abstract to draw romantic inferences from this, but it certainly seemed to comment on the way in which ballet style defines its roles, and how interchangeable they are, given the proper interpretation.

In an odd way, Oakland Ballet seems more the property of the East Bay than it should be. Its revivals are ambitious and well-chosen; its dancers — particularly some of the women — are marvelous. ■

K. White

Program Two of the Oakland Ballet premieres Friday, October 14, at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. It will include Eugene Loring's Billy the Kid, Agnes deMille's Inconsequential, a new work by Betsy Erickson of the San Francisco Ballet, and Ronn Guidi's Doorak Dances.

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The Stallion: Up, Up, & Away!

The Stallion Stampede, since joining league 8 Ball action in August of '81, has compiled a record unique in San Francisco

rough ground, however, as LA's Pits team held them winless, 9/7, 9/3.

Spring '83: Again dominating



Behold: 46 Wins, 3 Losses. The Stallion Stampede is out to break records this season, as the league's top three players confidently await the playoffs. (l. to r.) Gordon Bell - 12/1, Colin Bradley - 13/1, E.Z. - 21/1. (Photo: Wendy)

Pool Association history: They have won their division every season. The very first Stampede, assembled after Tommy Sherck bought the Polk & Ellis bar, steamrolled its way to a 138/38 finish. Although not undefeated (an overtime playoff loss to the Rainbow in the middle match of a 2-out-of-3 set), they returned from Los Angeles with a West Coast Challenge crown.

The next season they appeared unbeatable until a surprising Bandlands Bandits allowed them only six wins, again the middle match of a 2-out-of-3 playoff set. They finished second that season going down 9-4 twice against the Rainbow team that went on to victory at the Arena in West Coast Challenge V.

Fall '82: This time their worthy adversary was Febe's Gypsies in an exciting, down-to-the-wire city championship . . . and the Stampede was off to WCC VII in San Diego. They ran into

their division all season but, like the previous Spring, they finished 2nd to a team that went on to West Coast Challenge victory — Febe's Dons.

The Fall '83 edition of the Stampede, currently ripping its way through the SFFA's Division IV, is "definitely the best team we've had yet," according to captain Gordon Bell. A glance at the Top 20 confirms that: Their low man is rated 8th in the league! They've already broken their old league record for consecutive wins, stringing 28 wins August 30 & September 6, and every player in the starting five is playing at a vastly improved pace. Comparing current averages to the previous two seasons, look at the improvement: Gordon Bell - 21%, Colin Bradley - 24%, Ron McKay and Steve Runng - 20%, and E.Z. is virtually in orbit, up 13% at 21/1 and .954, including 20 straight.

Could it be their matches have

Sports Clubs

S.F. Hiking Club. Sunday, October 9: Mt. Tamalpais. Meet at McDonald's, Stanyan and Haight at 9:45 AM for car-pooling.

Thursday, October 13: Group meeting, 7:30 PM, 1736 Dolores at 30th. Activities for November will be planned. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

S.F. Track and Field Club. Sunday, October 9: Practice, 11 AM. Info: 647-5231 or 431-7021.

Frontrunners. Sunday, October 9: Lake Merritt, Oakland, 5 to 10 K. Take Grand Ave. exit from 580 freeway. Turn right onto Grand. Meet at white columns at head of the lake between Grand and Lakeshore at 10 AM.

Saturday Fun Runs (3 to 5 miles) meet at Stow Lake Boat House, Golden Gate Park at 10 AM. Long runs (15 to 20 miles) begin each Saturday at 8 AM. Info: Dave at 346-3718.

Different Spokes Bicycle Club. Sunday, October 9: Wildcat Canyon Ride, easy pace, many stops, steep climb, 15 miles. Brunch at Revol's, bring lunch money, bike lock. Meets at Orinda Bart, 11 AM. Info: Hal, 938-4123

Wednesday, October 12: Mt. Hamilton/Lick Observatory, moderate pace, occasional stops, very hilly with considerable climbs, 75 miles. Strenuous ride for experienced riders only. Bring lunch, water. Meets at Fremont Bart, 10 AM. Information: Michael, 861-7473.

all been against easy teams? Almost the opposite — they've played all of the upper echelon in their Division except the 3rd place Park Bowl Spare Parts. Their worst night is a 12-4 victory over the 2nd place White Swallow Fabulous 40's. When they hit the 3rd place Pilsner Doughboys, they got all 16 games and sent their star player, Paul Ziegler, from the #1 slot all the way to #21! The only team on the horizon that could conceivably beat them before the playoffs is Febe's, currently leading Div II. The two teams clash the final night of the season, Nov. 11, in an interdivisional contest at the Stallion.

Winning a game against the Stallion Stampede is something to write home about. Only two players have managed two wins against them. Currently at 85-11 (.885), they need only a 55/25 record the final 5 weeks to set a new percentage record.

isolated beauty of 8,730 foot Ebbetts Pass and Bear Valley ski area before returning to the city late Sunday night.

The San Francisco Hiking Club is a group of gays who enjoy hiking, camping, backpacking, and other informal outdoor activities. Anyone is welcome to join our activities. Membership is \$15 for one year.

Members are responsible for their own equipment. All members must complete a club membership application/release of liability form. For a membership application, write to the address below. Checks should be made payable to the San Francisco Hiking Club. The club's mailing address is: San Francisco Hiking Club, 584 Castro Street, #344, San Francisco, CA 94114.

Gay Youth

Is it true there are really Gays/bisexuals/Lesbians under 21? Meet others at the Richmond Youth Rap, Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 PM, beginning October 18, at 3654 Balboa. Info: Rik, 668-5955.

Savoring many adventures, the group drove through the

G.S.L. UPDATE

TOM VINDEED

Re-Elect the G.S.L. Executive Board!

On Tuesday, October 11, 7 PM at Chez Mollett, 527 Bryant St., the GSL will hold election of officers for 1984. It is easy for all of us to sit back and criticize what was right or wrong with the GSL this past year, but what did we do to try and correct a certain idea that we didn't like?

This year, more than any other, lack of participation by league members was very evident. The current board did almost everything themselves to keep the GSL a smoothly run organization. With this in mind I call upon all league members to return these four very qualified individuals to their respective offices.

Commissioner Bob Docca has worked with a degree of professionalism seldom seen in our league. During the year he has grown in his position, and will be even better able to serve during a second term. It would be nice to see Bob elected by acclamation. He deserves it!

Rick "Rita" Brattin not only brings his special expertise to the job of Assistant Commissioner; he embodies what the GSL stands for. He loves good times, competition and the GSL. I have been to several Gay World Series with Rick and he is by himself the best goodwill ambassador the GSL has.

Rick "Becky" Ritt . . . what can you say about the "venta of death"? At times I love him, at times I only wish he would keep his mouth shut. But above it all,

he is totally above board when it comes to the finances of the league, and this is what should concern us most.

Ken Stewart as Secretary is the quiet member of the board. Ken is probably one of the more highly respected individuals in our league doing a job that anyone rarely wants. He is also a great scorekeeper.

It's easy for us to criticize the GSL, but what did we do to correct the thing we didn't like?

Even if you don't agree with the above, you are encouraged to come to the meeting and have a say in who should direct our league.

★ ★ ★

Very few tickets remain for the taped showing of the Switchiters Ball to be held Friday, 7:30 PM, October 7 at Chez Mollett, 527 Bryant. The \$4 donation will give you a chance to win one of the many door prizes that include brunch for two at Cafe Sn. Marcos, a floral piece from Castro Country Flowers, wrist watches, drink tickets and many other terrific prizes. It is going to be a fun time so please stop by. For further info call Tom at 753-0740.



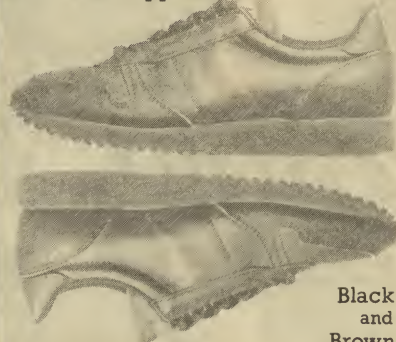
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S.F. HIKING CLUB

by Loren

Mammoth Lake Backpacking Trip

It's one thing to read a brochure describing the spectacular heart of the High Sierra as a "vacationing paradise," and quite another to experience such magnificence first-hand. But this is what S.F. Hiking Club members Anthony, Art, Bill, Dan, Loren, Marty, Rick, and Ron did on August 12-14.

Hours after leaving the hustle of Friday morning city traffic, they drove through the 9,624 foot Sonora Pass and found themselves in a land of crystal-clear streams and emerald lakes, with vast unspoiled virgin forests touched only by mountain trails. Camp was established, food purchased, and supplies readied before relaxing with wine around an evening campfire. Saturday wakeup was at 5:30 AM to enable them to have a hearty breakfast, obtain hiking permits, and drive up to the trail-

head at Agnew Meadows. In the solitude of the Minaret Wilderness high trail the group gloried at the site of Shadow Lake across the valley (beneath snow covered 13,157 foot Mt. Ritter) and soaked in the sun amidst mountain meadows thickly carpeted with profusely blooming wildflowers. Then, while part of the group ascended through the snow to the breathtaking grandeur of Garnet Lake, the others hiked on to the wondrous columnar basalt formation known as Devils Postpile.

By day's end, both groups had traversed 15 miles along the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River. Sunday's return trip again passed Mono Lake and included a leisurely afternoon in Bodie, a genuine gold mining ghost town.

Savoring many adventures, the group drove through the

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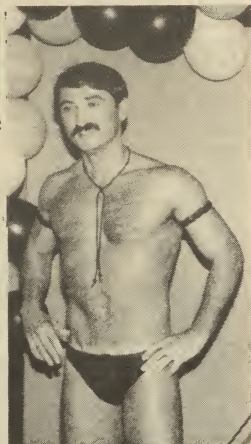
South of Market loses not one but three of its artists in October, and the loss is a heavy one. Uyvari is departing to the Midwest and Lou Rudolph's off to The Big Apple for a year of soot and artistic brilliance. The ripple effect of the third departure may have the furthest reverberations, for when Peter Hartman leaves at the end of October, the 544 Natoma Gallery will close as well.

544 Natoma was a salmagundi of art, theatre, and music, which also describes its founder and proprietor, Mr. Hartman.

The amazing part of Hartman is his capacity to embrace all of these things. Whether successfully or critically disastrous, the spirit of exploration, to expand limits, was the spirit of 544 Natoma Gallery and the men and women who worked and created there.

What next? Peter and his lover, Jonathan, will move to the country where he hopes to create a retreat for artists, musicians, and groups who need a place to create in the spirit of 544 Natoma.

Tonight, 544 Natoma will cele-



Castro Caducity. Castro Station "Daddy" Paul. (Photo: Rink)

MY HEART BELONGS TO...

I find it curious to remember the Gay male beauty pageants of my youth. When I was 20 years old (yes, I was 20 once, too!) it was other cute young things who won. Now that I'm approaching my mid-30's, the community is replete with Daddies contests. Mr. and Miss Gay SF, Michael and Trixie, hosted just such a competition Saturday at Castro Station. With cash prizes to attract the hot ones, Michael and the GrandDucal court members created a carnival atmosphere. Rounds of competition exposed more and more of the six competing men. Finally, they were down to jockstraps and the audience voted by giving tickets to their favorite hunk. Believe me, it's the first time we've ever seen S/M macho Mel Wald in the buff. Second runner-up was Fanny's furry bar manager, Ralph Hochrine. Taking the cash for first runner-up back to his Anaheim home was Scot McDonald, blond and charming. The big winner of the day was Castro Station's latest addition to the morning shift, Paul Varda. He's short,

(Continued on next page)



A Little Bit of Bavaria. The CMC-sponsored Oktoberfest filled the Eagle patio with beer, bare knees, and brauturst. (Photo: Rink)

Robert Chesley recently wrote of him, "Peter Hartman... is part genius, part insanity, and totally, maddeningly excessive..."

In another piece, Denise On-dayke wrote, "... It would take an individual equally as impressive as the space (544 Natoma) and the performances presented to conceive of and create this gallery in the first place. Peter Hartman is such an individual, and the person responsible for 544 Natoma's unique existence."

Peter was trained at the Living Theater in New York, operated a State Theater in Rome for 12 years, and was the youngest composer to perform with the Berlin Philharmonic in 1964, which he counts as one of three lifetime triumphs. The others, he says, have taken place at 544 and were his incredible duet with Jean Smith and the eccentric bondage piece Mark Chester performed upon Hartman while the latter played the piano.

544 Natoma was a completely community oriented experience. It had a special call to expand the limits, as is the call throughout So/M. As Peter puts it, "If anything, what we did at 544 was to break through resistances people had to difficult material, whether it was sexual, artistic, or social. Performance art, traditional theater and so many forms of Theatre of the Bizarre all found a place. Lots of artwork, photography and installations as well as education found a home in our theater." He went on to say, "Music is one of my first loves. We brought in everything from Bach, to Frightwig, to Hartman."

brate its demise with "The End of 544 Natoma" Party. Beginning at sunset, it will include performances, music, and art auctions 'til dawn. Donations will go to help defray closure costs. If you have missed experiencing this unique theatre, get out of the bar tonight and stop by!



Castro Daddy. Newest title in town is Daddy and each bar is naming theirs. Paul (l. with trophy) won his Daddy title at Castro Station and was congratulated by runner-up Scott. (Photo: Rink)



Showering Suavely. Bay Area Reporter Rivets columnist Tom Rogers (2nd from left) and lover Red faced the hose unflappably, thanks to the latest in rubber fashionwear, at their bike christening at the Eagle. (Photo: Rink)



Band Beer Bust. The Marching Band provided the music, and fans like these — Fruit Punch's Bill (l.) and The Stud's Jeremy — provided the visuals and donations at the band's recent benefit. (Photo: Rink)



One's a Man, the Other's a Daddy. Or, Miss Begotten and Mr. E: Miss Gay SF Trixie and Castro Station Runner-Up Daddy Scott. (Photo: Rink)

KNIGHTS

(Continued from previous page)

but his powerful pecs and huge arms more than make up for that. This little fucker worked as bar-back while running back and forth to the stage. Our MC's were Ken Singleton, Billy Carter, and myself. Our featured entertainer was Mr. Dolly.

By the way, word is that the Polk Gulch's triad — David Buell, John Hagman, and Tom Tanaka — have gone into escrow in the purchase of the Station. David says the main changes he has in mind are architectural.

Around the corner, Fanny's has a new proprietor, Richard Deitch. He was host last weekend to the talents of Faye Carol, who had 'em packed in.

Mr. Tony Valentine, Emperor IV of Alameda, has moved his residence to this side of the bay. Many feel black tie, midnight sups, and the grand days of the imperial court are a thing of the past. I suspect, however, that Mr. Valentine doesn't think so. Last Saturday he had a bewitching birthday dinner party at Tom Vetrano's Roxy Roadhouse; next January perhaps a crown (spelled with two s's).

Rich Carle has a group of folks pushing him to throw his glove into the same ring (spelled with no s's).

One of the year's most impressive celebrations is Kimo's anniversary, this one number six. Kimo is a former Pacific Islands dancer and after touring the world for 18 years he settled down with his little family in a glass-enclosed, two-story bar on Polk Street. The party was MC'd by the inimitable Marlena and included Mama Billy (who provided a scrumptious tropical buffet), Mr. Dolly, Grand Duchess Sable, and the provocative Lee Raymond. The real show which is talked of all year is Kimo's own. He brings us dances from the Pacific and Caribbean Islands crowned with his Samoan Fire Knife Dance.

Speaking of knives and sharp tongues and such, Linda Lovelash sat demurely in the audience. I believe she too will toss her hoopskirt into the imperial ring. Who knows where it will end? (It's a two S skirt, though.) Rumor has it that Margo is eyeing the same skirt.

It wasn't skirts but lederhosen that the CMC members wore at their Oktoberfest last Sunday in the Bavarian Eagle Alps. David Sarathain mounted the stage for the first time as that club's new road captain with Prez Chouix, who apologized, "This is the closest we got to Munich!!" No need to apologize; the beer and bratwurst were terrific.

On that same patio on Saturday, eight of our finest mounted their bikes and took a bath of champagne and beer and God knows what else. Red and Tom Rogers were ready for foul weather, encased head to toe in rubber. They'd been well advised, but Constantines Gary Kenyon and Al Juzty weren't so well prepared. We also welcomed Ernie Viola, Jerry, and Chuck to the ranks of the riders of So/M.

You may want to check out the ICF's annual progressive dinner. Friday, 10/7, at 6 PM you can check in at the Arena for 6 clams, have a cocktail, and proceed to Febe's for homemade chicken soup, Ramrod for the salad course, and Chaps for the entree. JC will host after dinner drinks, prizes and entertainment at the Eagle. Chairman George Duncan has lined up Sable and the wonderful muscle dancing of Bob of Sundance Studios.

Saturday eve Ken and Sable will be invested into the Grand-Duck crowns officially at the Roxy. Tom is "doing the White House" as a theme. Things will



Sell Out and Scram. Even artist Uywari was surprised when his Farewell Show was an instant sell-out. But with drawings such as this, that's no surprise. Perhaps he'll mail a frequent new one back so we won't miss him. (Photo: Rink)

get started with cocktails and the Ball tape from 4 to 7 PM and the ceremonies follow at 7.

Seen in Castro Station: "Announcing, The Birth of Knights Templars, Anno Domini 1983, Box 14128, SF, CA 94114, 'A Safe and Sane S/M Society.'"

The Alice B. Toklas Club will be registering voters in the So/M bars (and elsewhere) on October 8 from 9-10:30 PM and on Sunday afternoon from 3-7 PM.

These are the same hours that the Imperial Guard will be holding a beer bust on the Eagle patio. The cost is 6 bucks for beer, food, and fun.

If you are off work and of the mind to spend a few moments surrounded by antiques and good food, the Fickle Fox will be open Columbus Day, Monday 10/10, for brunch. Each plate served will send one dollar to the Gay Men's Chorus to help them make more music.

(Continued on next page)



Politics with Punch. When leathermen get into politics we can expect action. Al Martino is a CRIR member and AB-1 lobbyist. (Photo: Rink)

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KNIGHTS

(Continued from previous page)

Way South of Market is a little bit of paradise called El Rio. Sunny Sunday is made more so by Linda, who pours there from 4 to 8 PM.

Leticia's Line-Up has been serving the So/M community, too. She serves her great Mexican food at the corner of Seventh and Harrison Streets.

Next week we'll talk about what is in store for Halloween. In the meantime, play safe and clean and see ya in the skins. ■

K. Stewart

Karl's Calendar

Thursday, 10/6: The End of 544 Natoma. A closing party; sunset 'til dawn; continuous entertainment; donation requested.

Birthday. CMC Prez Choux; Febe's, 9pm.

Friday, 10/7: ICF Progressive Dinner. Check-in, Arena, 6pm, \$6; includes Febe's, Ramrod, Chaps, and the SF Eagle.

Saturday, 10/8: Investiture. Grand-Ducks Ken & Sable. Roxy Roadhouse; GD Ball tape shown 4-7pm, ceremony 7pm (it's Ken's birthday).

Sunday, 10/9: Imperial Guard Does The Eagle. Beer bust, 3-6pm, \$6; includes food.

Chicken Feed (the kind with feathers).

The Arena, 6 & 11pm.

Tuesday, 10/11: Meet the Comedy Nominees, David Awards. Clementina's, 8:30pm, performance.

Tavern Guild Picnic Tape. Febe's, 6pm; AIDS/KS Lobby Benefit, \$1.

Wednesday, 10/12: Dynasty, aired at Febe's, 9pm.

Beginners' Hoedown

The Western Star Dancers, San Francisco's square dancing group, present A How to Square Dance on Saturday, October 15. It's for people who have never square danced before, had limited experience square dancing, or have square danced so long ago that they don't remember all the calls. It will be

held at the Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Avenue, 2nd Floor, beginning at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$4.

Western Star Dancers will provide a caller who will instruct people from a total beginners perspective. The group is having this dance as a fun preview to their new beginners class which will start in January, 1984. Info: 864-6134. ■

Older Gay Men

A panel on research on older Gay men will air on "The Gay Life" on KFSN, 95 FM, Sunday, October 9, 6 AM. Participants include moderator

James J. Kelly, James T. Flanagan, and Lawrence Stephens.

The show will also feature the conclusion of last week's discussion of Lesbian and Gay movement history in San Francisco. ■

KARRNAL KNOWLEDGE

Congratulations, Professor Higgins

KARR

The William Higgins fuck film factory is so prolific that if I take two weeks off from reviewing he's six films ahead of me. Recently I've felt his prodigious output has worked against him, and I was cool to his last two efforts. "Dependable," I faintly damned them, noting their professional production but basically unarousing character.

Lots of boys made out in Malibu Days and Printer's Devils, but to little effect. The Higgins formula had become too pat, the scenes predictable. The boys were attractive and hung but almost all lacked presence and a performer's drive to be watched. The film ratings were Karr's Double P: Proficient but Passionless.

I felt Higgins wasn't shaping the scenes, merely filming as a detached observer. This was especially problematic because his entire repertory stable of stars — Kip Noll, Jon King, Jeremy Scott, Derrick Stanton — had disappeared. They came, they conquered repeatedly, they split before they were eligible for old age pensions. Higgins has had a tough time replacing them, and his recent films have had a high turnover rate as he gave potential stars their chance in the harsh white spotlight of blue-movies. Most of these would-be's came without conquering. But Higgins compounded their lack of star quality by not offering them direction.

Kids sucked and fucked randomly, without indication of rising (or any) interest, and had orgasms as if they were turning off the light upon leaving a room — you were supposed to, mother would be angry if you didn't — not because they were so excited their bodies burst. And Higgins allowed it, neither encouraging the action nor editing the footage to provide the illusion that would feed our arousal.

Fortunately, this problem has been alleviated as a new company of stars has evolved and in The Best Little Warehouse in L.A. we have Higgins' best little fuck flick since Members Only — and even better than that one.

It's also the most virile video Higgins has made, and that may surprise those who expect a constant supply of the hairless, day-over-eighteen year olds that Hig-

gins usually features. Not that there aren't young ones here. They're just balanced against some slightly older, slightly hairier men. It's a juxtaposition which flatters them both and carries a few surprises as well. In several cases, it's the slimmer and younger sylph who throws a punchy fuck into the older, "butcher" stud. Sometimes, even more deliciously, they take turns plowing each other and the double overturning of our expectations adds a special fillip.

Best Little Warehouse is virile in another way, too. The chemistry between the cast members is strong, and there's only one moment of lackadaisical in-and-out. These guys, regardless of age or top or bottom position, go at it with fervor. All Higgins had to do was transfer the film footage to video. He's even shown admirable restraint in most of his editing, so we can watch the progression of the



Giorgio Canali (L.) nips Michael Christopher before knock-down fuck in Warehouse. Blow-by-blow pictures are in the "Stockboy Sex" magazine.

stars' sexplay. Our passions build toward release along with the cast's, which makes for a climax that is more than just the end of a scene.

I timed the scenes, and in only one instance is there more than one minute of plot. Usually the introductory dialogue is two lines long — almost "Shall we?" and "Yes." You get

(Continued on next page)



Terry Craig smiles up at Cliff Austin during Best Little Warehouse; pictures of their scene fill a magazine called "Truckfuck."



Giorgio Canali, stirring star of Warehouse brings heat to still photographs in the "Stockboy Sex" magazine.

(Continued from previous page)

what you pay for in this one — two hours of sex. No panoramic vistas and no stupid plots needing unbelievable resolution, just two guys walking into view and Doing It. Warehouse is sexually straightforward, too. There's no kink, no cockrings, no leather, no slapping, spitting, or hostility expressed as masculinity. The only aggression in this video is the vehemence with which several of the couples make out. With its cross-section of age and physical types plus a good batting score for the sex, Warehouse should appeal to the widest possible cross-range of tastes.

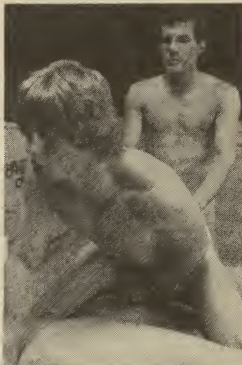
The first scene begins abruptly, and doesn't start the show too strongly. Blonde Ed Michaels is attractive, but the five-minute scene is rushed. It merely sets up Michael Christopher as the film's star. I liked the two-handed method Michaels employs to bring Christopher off, but deleting the scene altogether would have given more time to other, better couplings.

Scene Two is the real opener — at least it opened all of my orifices. Giorgio Canali (aka Rocco Rizzoli when he works for Colt) delivers a package to Christopher's warehouse. The item Christopher wants isn't a box wrapped in brown paper, but the box hugged by tight blue jeans. He unveils and adores

Canali's cock with religious awe. He also realizes the value of our seeing the tool and doesn't always engulf it. Licking the top, nibbling the sides, he lets us experience all of the Canali wonder — and there's a considerable amount to experience.

They move organically toward fucking, and when they do the camera's right in there where the heat burns up the lube. I love the jackrabbit quickness of Canali's thrusts, his balls slapping crisply against Christopher's cheeks. Canali plunges for the tonsils, and Christopher, usually a top himself, responds by grinding down. It's great to see two stars together, and greater to see their finale, in which Canali straddles Christopher and jacks off their two cocks as one, to a nearly simultaneous and far-reaching explosion.

Auto mechanics Terry Craig and Cliff Austin are next in the warehouse. There's one line of



Michael Christopher (l.) allows Giorgio Canali to ride him hard in Warehouse, documented in the "Stockboy Sex" magazine.

exposition — "I'll show you how to do a tune-up." Craig is blonde, Austin black-haired with a mustache and an irresistible smile. They both have long cocks with bulbous heads. The insertion shots couldn't be more explicit, the cocksucking could not be tastier, or the fucking more deep.

My favorite is next, and I grieve because it's a little short — only ten minutes. Frank Johns is not conventionally handsome, but his assured masculinity, impressive cock, and vengeance-style fucking set their own standards. Dusty Sands, a welcome newcomer familiar

from several recent films, takes all that aggressive Johns has to give. Johns pulls his cock nearly out of Sands' ass so we can see the broad ridge around its massive head, before jamming its impressive length rudely in. This sequence could use more continuity, but it's a fuck anyone can empathize with, and it's been a big hit on my VCR.

A touch of comic relief finds Michael Christopher punishing two kids who sneak into the warehouse one night to drink beer. Even as a fantasy this hardly works, but it passes in a moment. When apprehended, the kids swear they'll leave, yet don't move. Christopher spansks them and finds that Mike Dean gets hard behind the hand action. That's cause for an immediate three-way. One highpoint — though only seconds long — is a chorus line of the three jerking off, but soon Christopher asks, "You guys ever fuck?"

Wide-eyed as Pollyanna collecting dew off daisies, they nod, "No."

"Why don't you try?" suggests Christopher, and before you can say *Crisco* they're doing it with practiced expertise. Dean is rote here, so Christopher takes over for a deep-dish plunge. Then Dean plugs him, connecting all three in a chain. Seen from underneath it's very edifying. Thank you, Mr. Higgins.

★ ★ ★

If your pecker's holding out, there's more. Mike Dean is paired with the slightly homely, slightly scrawny, slightly acned Morgan, who is this video's Cinderella. When the ball begins he's transformed into a sexual dynamo, topping Dean and being topped, and talking sassily dirty. "Oooh, yeah, I want your big cock up my ass . . . oooh, be careful," he moans, but assures, "Oooh, I want it . . . oooh," he declaims, "I love cock."

Higgins' newest star testifies in *Best Little Warehouse*: "Oooh, I love cock."

For sure, as they say. What a finale. But wait — there's more; three bonus jack-off scenes that aren't shown when Warehouse is screened in commercial theatres. The three are Michael Christopher, Mike Dean (it's amazing how far this hot number can take us in a short time, how bold he is in looking directly at us, and how fancy in stuffing his fingers up his ass and shooting a sparkler of flying pearls) and newcomer Lance Whitman, who was salacious enough in this "audition" solo to earn a star role in Higgins' new release, *The Young Olympians*.

With such scant dialogue that the script could be handwritten on the reservoir end of a rubber, and with enough sex to satiate the indefatigable, *Best Little Warehouse* meets a lot of my video needs. Yours too, I'm sure.

Oh — I hated the disco soundtrack. Turn it off and play your own music. I hate to end on a downer, but Higgins seems to have everything else under control. When will he hire someone to give his videos some decent music?

Karr

The *Best Little Warehouse* video is available from Catalina Video, 256 S. Robinson Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Also available are full color magazines of the film: *Ass-Slappin'* (the Christopher 3-way); *Stud Shock* (Frank Johns and Dusty Sands); *Truckfuck* (Cliff Austin and Terry Craig); *Stockboy Sex* (Canali and Christopher); and *College Cock* (Morgan and Mike Dean). All photos this page courtesy Wm. Higgins Productions.



Porn-film newcomer Frank Johns receives approval on his credentials from Dusty Sands in Warehouse, and pictured in "Stud Shock" magazine.

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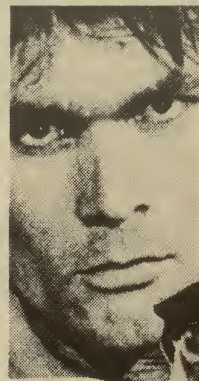
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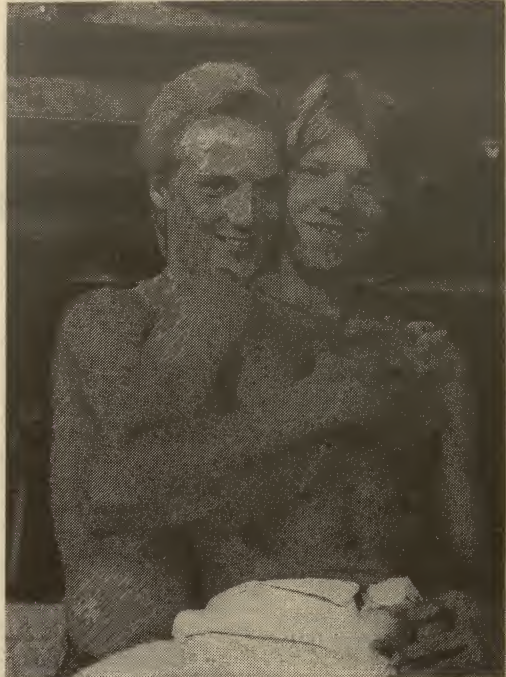
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Mike Dean (left) and Morgan tangle in the *BEST LITTLE WAREHOUSE* film, and fill a magazine called *College Cock* with stills of the sequence.

Yea, Fairily

DICK WALTERS

On Tuesday, October 11, the Tavern Guild meeting will be held at the Gate at Pine & Jones. Attend and see what Paul and Rene have done to create an entirely new atmosphere for the bar and soon-to-be dining room.

And while you are in the neighborhood and want something light to eat like a salad or great sandwich, try the Earl of Sandwich at 1049 Bush Street — small but comfortable and worth the effort.

Quote from Casey of Queen Mary's Pub: "Do you know when Reba is lying? . . . Yes, when she opens her mouth." Reba is going to get you, Casey, 'cause she is an Empress — several times removed.

Mirage at 394 22nd Street (at Guerrero) is a great and well-decorated bar that has recently opened . . . you should see their brass palm trees . . . just great. And to top it all off, owners Hugh and Suki have the one and only Debi behind the plank, days, Monday through Friday . . . nice to see you the other day with Mel Square, Debi.

Saturday, October 8, at the Roxy Roadhouse Ken and Sable, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of San Francisco, will be having their Investiture . . . 4 'til 10 with a \$5 admission charge.

Friday through Sunday is the great Oktoberfest at the White Swallow with drawings hourly and a grand prize of a color television set. They will have a buffet and a German accordion player who is young and great . . . your poster looks just great, Cadillac Chuck.

Thank you, Seaman Russ, for having Bill Ward and Clay play last Saturday afternoon at the sensational Mexican Birthday Party at Google's . . . Andy and yours truly never made so many double margaritas before . . . hope you enjoyed it, Ciprion.

Incidentally, Google's will celebrate its first anniversary on Thursday, October 20, from 5 PM on. There will be fun and surprises for one and all.

Hunan and Mandarin cuisine is featured at the Red Eye Saloon's new dining room — the No M.S.G. Restaurant. Lunch and dinner are served every day of the week, and Chuckles, Nicki, Jack, and Ken are still on the planks.

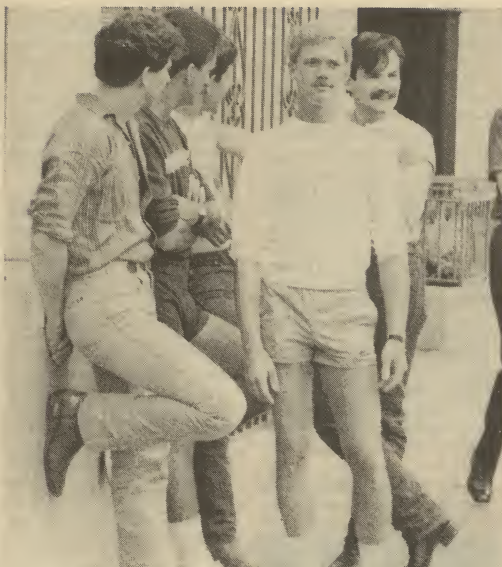
Someone wrote to Miss Manners to ask what to say when introduced to a homosexual couple. Her answer was, "How do you do? How do you do? Also asked of her, "What is the correct way to walk in high heels?" She replied, "Left, right, left, right..."

Michael, aka Suzie, Dowger Empress #1 of Alameda, is now cutting hair at The Haircut at 16 Taylor Street. He'll make you look better than ever, right, Art York?

From October 1 through 15 Gilmore's at Hyde and California is having a showing of the art work of Jim Schoenberg. So have a cocktail with Dick Petroff and see some great art work (it's for sale at reasonable prices).

Lance and Ron aka Edna Mae and Blanche) are arriving from Portland on the 8th for a week of raising hell. They'll give us all the dirt on what is happening in that great city.

Remember the White Swallows Oktoberfest, on October 7-9 . . . lots of fun, prizes and food . . . the food is being done by a new catering group called Aunt Martha's Kitchen and they do a fabulous job . . . This is the first Oktoberfest for which the staff doesn't have to dress, right, Mike Dooley? . . .



Godot Will Not Arrive on Castro Street. Summer in the city . . . a look, a smile, another day at Hibernia Beach. (Photo: Rink)

Charity Bridge Tournaments starting promptly at 9:30 AM. Donations \$12, which includes Brunch and cash prizes; the also the great poster for the event was done by the talented Cadillac Chuck Demmon at The Mint. Every Saturday they have

balance goes to a "Charity of the Month."

Rumor has it . . . true for once . . . that Crystal is moving in with yours truly. No, we're not starting a call girl service . . . the only thing we call for is another round!

There is RISK in the FOG

Another of the many activities sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Gays (The FOG) will be Risk Night. FOG members and guests will enjoy an evening in the comfort of a private San Francisco home playing the popular board game, Risk. Refreshments will be served and a prize will be awarded to the overall winner of the evening.

Risk Night will be held on Saturday, October 8, at 8 p.m., 934 Ortega Street in San Francisco. The cost to members is \$3 and for guests \$4. For more in-

formation and/or reservations call 566-6227.

The FOG is a new Gay social organization. Its primary purpose is to bring members of the Gay community together just to have fun, meet others with similar interests, and make friends. The FOG offers members an alternative to bars. The varied activities of the FOG include Game Nights (Bridge, Monopoly, Poker, Scrabble, etc.), local and international trips, lectures, language classes, parties, etc.

Weekend Radio

The Red Queen remembers. Gay activist Arthur Evans is the guest for the 7:05 to 9 p.m. segment of Saturday's David Lamble Talk Show on KGO-FM (FM 104). Evans recalls the heady days following the Stonewall rebellion in New York and discusses where he feels the Gay movement has strayed. Arthur Evans is author of *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture*. From 9:05 to 10 p.m. Saturday David's guest will be Curt McDowell, a Gay erotic filmmaker with a sense of humor.

Sunday's lineup is headed by an hour with B.A.R. Entertainment Editor John Karr. Karr will discuss the fall arts scene and his own popular pornography column. From 8:05 to 10 p.m. Theatre Rhino director Robert Pittman appears wearing two hats. From 8:05 to 9 p.m. Pittman, a job counselor with the state unemployment office, will explain how to get and get beyond basic survival jobs in the 80's. From 9:05 to 10 p.m. Robert Pittman will discuss his production of Tennessee Williams' 1977 memory play, *Vieux Carre*. The play, which opens the fall Rhino season, depicts the young Williams' coming of age, a play Pittman feels was also a "coming out" play. "As long as Vieux (lives) . . . it will be impossible for straight people to ignore the fact that Tennessee Williams was homosexual."

Cooking Classes for Gay Elders

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) of Operation Concern is forming a cooking group for Lesbians and Gay men, 60 and over.

The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, beginning October 5. Membership is limited. To make a reservation call 626-7000.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

Parsonage has Election

The Parsonage at 555A Castro is looking forward to another year of service and ministry as an outreach of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. Election of new officers and selection of persons to chair the various Guilds reached completion Monday evening, September 26.

The Action Council Officers are: Gary Williams, Chair (& Parsons' Support Guild); Ben Owens, Vice-Chair (& Public Relations Guild); Bob Smith, Clerk (& Parsons' Orientation & Training Guild); Ron Washburn, Sexton; Bob Fuller, Treasurer; Patrick Hall, Bishop's Representative & Parish Outreach Guild; Jean Gansa, Bishop's Representative & Development Guild; Sandy Ellis, Neighborhood Services Guild. Revs. Bernard Mayes and John Williams, co-founders of The Parsonage, continue as ex-officio members of the Council. Alan Schut serves on the Council as member-at-large.

The Parsonage family is especially grateful to Bill Lowe, outgoing Chairperson, and to all others who served in various capacities in the past year. The Parsonage will also benefit this coming year from seminarian Michael Wyatt who will be doing his year of field service training in association with The Parsonage.

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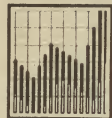
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Models Available Around Town
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MONDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

SAN FRANCISCO'S OLDEST AND MOST POPULAR GAY BOWLING LEAGUE

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SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE ~ starts Oct 23

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These are both handicap leagues with the emphasis on fun!!!
IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO BE A GOOD BOWLER TO JOIN THE FUN!!!!
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